

THE ATHENÆUM

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He prepared himself for his task by studying the Russian language "carefully," and by spending four months in a journey from Vladivostok to Western Europe. Of course, in addition to this, he consulted printed books, but if an opinion on these sources of information may be formed from the works which he recommends to those of his readers "who wish to improve their knowledge of the subject," his reading was neither extensive nor directed to the best authorities. His select list includes nine books in Russian, which not one out of a hundred of his readers is likely to understand; an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, on the Pacific campaign of 1858; and only two books in English, viz., a translation of Prince Wolkonski's 'Pictures of Russian History,' and Atkinson's 'Travels in the Regions of the Amoor.' Surely "Vladimir" ought to have been aware that Atkinson never travelled on the Amur, and that his book is in the main a plagiarism of Maack's work, published at St. Petersburg in 1859.

The author's account of the conquest of Siberia, the struggle for the Amur, and of more recent events, is lively, instructive, and upon the whole trustworthy, although on several points, fortunately of no great importance, his authorities have led him into error. His account of the means of communication in Siberia is good, and his

view of the prospects of the great Siberian railway seems to us judicious. That line will primarily prove of importance in facilitating communication between the most distant parts of the empire, it may even affect many travellers going to or returning from the Far East; but the bulk of merchandise will be carried in future, as it is now, by sea.

Politically, the author may not unfairly be described as an apologist for Russia's proceedings in the East. We admit at once that Russia has as much inherent right to "expand" as any other country rapidly increasing in population. If Russian methods, on his own showing, have not always been clean, straightforward, and generous, much the same might be said of the methods of some other countries. But surely the author does not seriously expect his readers to accept his assurance that this process of Russian expansion, "except in rare cases, has been eminently pacific." Of China he says:—

"If the experience of the past is the surest foundation on which to base provisions for the future, China has little to fear from her northern neighbour; the two empires have been in contact for over three centuries, and notwithstanding frequent frontier trouble, there has never been war. It is difficult to find elsewhere such a peaceful record."

The author forgets that if large territorial concessions were secured without war by Russia by the treaties of 1860 and 1898, this was because Russia took advantage of the distressed condition of China to exact terms which, in other circumstances, would not have been granted without an appeal to arms.

A few pages further on he says:—

"Russia has never entertained ideas of conquest of China; this would be contrary to the ancient traditions of her policy, which has always aimed at occupying thinly peopled lands affording room for her surplus population."

If Russia, notwithstanding these pacific principles, has been "forced" to occupy Port Arthur, this was due to the "bold action of Germany at Kiao-chau," and this occupation, as also the Siberian railway, "will probably lead to further annexations" in Manchuria, of course. Russia, we are told, is "as much interested as Great Britain, if not more, in the independence of China," that is of a China limited to the eighteen provinces of China proper, for she "may well consider with indifference the entire loss of the surrounding subject territories," that is of Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet, and Chinese Turkistan. May we remind the author of the "peaceful" occupation of the Kirghiz steppe, and the subsequent extension of Russian rule over the Central Asian Khanates? Of course, Russia will keep hands off China proper as long as her interference there would bring her face to face with the other great powers of the world.

"Vladimir" very justly points out that Russia is a great continental power, which only needs a few outlets to the ocean, whilst Britain rules the sea, and we quite agree with him that "a struggle between the two great expansive races of Europe, the Slav and the Anglo-Saxon, would be a misfortune, especially as it could produce no lasting results." Such a struggle, how-

ever, is not likely to occur so long as Russia abstains from interfering with spheres and interests which Britain may legitimately claim as her own.

Whilst "Vladimir" confines himself to Siberia and the Pacific, not even mentioning Turkistan, Persia, Afghanistan, or India, Mr. Alexis Krausse travels over the whole of Asiatic Russia, and deals very fully with the relations between Russia and the countries which border upon her empire, and shut her out from some of the most coveted seaports.

If we called Mr. Krausse a Russophobe, he would no doubt repel that designation with indignity, for he professes abhorrence of extremes; but, certainly, the way in which he speaks of Russia, Russian men, and Russian institutions, exhibits him in no sense as a friendly critic. His historical account of Russian progress in Asia seems to be an honest piece of work, possesses considerable value, and may be read with profit; but what may be called the argumentative part of his huge volume exhibits considerable bias, and should be taken with several grains of salt.

Russia is not governed by some seventy thousand military men, as he would have us believe; and if Russia "is within measurable distance of bankruptcy," such a startling assertion ought to have been supported by facts; whilst the statement that throughout the empire there is school accommodation for only two million children is absolutely false, for the schools are attended by over four millions. He is right when he reproves religious intolerance in Europe, but wrong when he blames the Government for not forcing Christian missionaries upon the Mohammedans of Asia. Among the pagan tribes of Northern Siberia the Russian Popes have been fairly active, and his map showing the 'Distribution of Religious Belief in Asia' is quite misleading, for it tints nearly the whole of Siberia as being occupied by "pagans and Shamanists," although these constitute only a fraction of the population, and similarly gives over the whole of our Indian empire to Hinduism, altogether ignoring the strong Mohammedan element in the north-west and in Bengal.

The contempt with which the author speaks of the natural resources of Siberia and Central Asia will not be shared by those who know something of the potentialities of these vast regions. He would have us believe that

"the railways, which have of late years been pushed forward with such feverish haste, are nowhere schemed with the view to the development of the resources of the countries they traverse; they are, without exception, strategic lines designed so as to facilitate the transport of troops and increase the strength of frontier posts."

Of course, the railways in Russia, as in other parts of the world, serve strategic purposes; but as strategic lines always follow the great highroads of commerce, they will be found to serve commercial purposes as well. There were excellent reasons for commencing the railway to Samarkand on the Caspian, instead of at Orenburg, and for selecting the shortest route for the great Pacific line, as an examination of a map will prove. As for the author's prediction

that the Siberian railway "cannot for centuries pay for its construction," it may be disregarded in the face of the success of the Pacific railways of North America, which traverse regions of no greater value than Siberia, notwithstanding which there now passes along them the produce of China and Japan in search of European markets.

Muscovite diplomacy, according to the verdict of Mr. Krause,

"is utterly unscrupulous, and pledges given or promises made are merely subterfuges, with the object of attaining something which is desired,and the ability with which the statesmen of St. Petersburg will deliver moral platitudes, justified by aid of hair-splitting definitions, adds a further strength to the position their diplomacy attains."

He goes on to contrast the persistent firmness of Russian diplomatists with the vacillating councils of the Parliamentary ministries of England, and their alternate exhibition of strength and weakness, as in 1884, when Russia was allowed to overstep a boundary agreed upon in 1872.

He severely criticizes the military system which obtains in Central Asia, and dwells upon the low standard of morality which prevails among the officials, both military and civil; and although admitting that Russia in most of her frontier wars acted under provocation, he maintains that disturbances were frequently provoked by officials in order that they might be afforded an opportunity for distinguishing themselves, or cases of aggression might be justified in the eyes of the world. He rightly condemns the massacres of women and children by Kaufmann, Lomakin, and Skobelev, and will not admit the plea that this was

"the most wise and most merciful method of conducting warfare against semi-civilized tribesthat by wiping out an entire people a lasting lesson is inflicted which will serve to the end of time, whereas a mere battle is soon forgotten, and the survivors remain implacable foes of the conquering power." Fortunately there is a credit side to all the violence employed:—

"On the credit side Russia may boast that she has established throughout her dominions a semi-civilized, in place of a barbaric, system of government; that she has abolished the raiding of the Turkomans and the Kirghiz, and that the principle of security of life and property has been introduced in regions where it was previously unknown."

So much has been written by men competent to judge, as well as by mere politicians, on the possibilities of a Russian invasion of India, that our critic finds little or nothing to say on the subject which is new. The notion of a conquest of the empire to the south of the Himalaya has, no doubt, been entertained in Russia, but, in the opinion of experts, our position at Quetta, even without Kandahar, backed as it is by the line of the Indus, would enable us to meet an invader, starting from the present Russian frontier, with success, even should he have secured the friendly co-operation of the Afghans. Competent Russian critics, such as General Skobelev, admit this, and only expect to meet with success if the Russian invaders are hailed as liberators by the peoples of India.

The views expressed here on this question are somewhat perplexing; for on the one

hand we read that the chances of an invasion are "practically nil," because of the geographical difficulties to be encountered in Afghanistan, and the warlike character of the people; whilst on the other it is stated as certain that Russia could conquer that country, and probable that she will occupy Herat.

"There is only one certain way of preventing the Russian occupation of Afghanistan. It is by occupying that country ourselves, and it behoves us to make up our minds exactly what course we shall follow in this connexion."

Fears are expressed that on the death of Abdur Rahman, which is spoken of as likely to take place in the course of a few months, there will be a struggle between rival candidates for the throne.

"There is not the slightest question but that Russia will, on the plea of aiding in the maintenance of order, occupy Herat, if she does not, indeed, attempt to reach Kabul as well.On the action taken in such a contingency depends, not only the peace of England, but the future of her Indian Empire."

It is urged as natural that Russia should seek outlets to the sea; indeed, the book goes the length of saying that she might well have been permitted to occupy Constantinople:—

"A Russian occupation of Constantinople would not have affected British interests in the least, while it would have benefited the Turks, and tended gradually to allay the fanaticism of the near East. The power of Russia to affect our communications with India would have been nil, so long as our fleet retained its superiority, and by the possession of her long-coveted Mediterranean port, Muscovite ambition would have been, for a while at least, content."

But only for a while, for we learn that Russia's

"destiny is to use that which she already possesses as a means by which further conquests are to be made, until possession, not of India, or of China or Persia, but of the whole Asiatic continent, which under the military sway of an army, ruled by the great White Tsar, may once again control the destinies of the world."

But, even on the author's own showing, this destiny is not likely to be fulfilled, for he admits that India may be saved, and that even Persia, Turkey, Afghanistan, China, and all the rest of Asia, which now lie at the mercy of Russia, may be kept out of her clutches if other and stronger powers stand up in their defence. But there is "only a single power qualified to cope with such a foe," and that power is England.

Fra Girolamo Savonarola. By Herbert Lucas, S.J. (Sands.)

History of the Popes. From the German of Dr. Ludwig Pastor. Edited by Frederick I. Antrobus. Vol. VI. (Kegan Paul & Co.)

We took up this life of Savonarola with no little curiosity. His story is not usually regarded as one of the most creditable episodes in the history of the Roman Church. A man, not perfect, indeed, but of conspicuous piety and unquestioned purity of life, was put to death, mainly on political and social grounds, with something more than the connivance of the head of that Church, whose own name from that

day to this has been a byword for all that is most opposed either to piety or to purity. Of course, we are aware that the most obedient of Roman Catholics is not bound to defend every action of every Pope. Father Lucas says as plain words about Alexander's personal character as any Protestant need wish; but we imagine that, as regards the actions of a Pope *quâ* Pope, he would find limits imposed on his criticism such as would not hamper him in the case of a secular potentate. Moreover, one of the most perplexing questions which a critic of Savonarola's career is called upon to answer is, In what circumstances, if at all, is a subordinate member of any organized body—and, *a fortiori*, of one which claims to rest on the very same basis as the law of right and wrong—right in refusing obedience to its head? "When he commands what is contrary to God," says Savonarola himself; but this brings us dangerously near to "your doxy and my doxy," a position which a Jesuit Father can hardly be expected to defend. Yet in the present case it was maintained by one who was very nearly a saint, as against one who was a sinner of the most pronounced kind. The question of authority *versus* private judgment has hardly ever presented itself in a form freer from side-issues, or rather in which the side-issues lent less support to the superior's case. How will a loyal and yet intelligent member of the same body decide?

It must be admitted that Father Lucas picks his way through the difficulty with much dexterity. He makes no concealment of his admiration for Savonarola. He quite avoids the "Alas, my brother!" tone which pious people (forgetting, perhaps, the not wholly estimable character of the person by whom the phrase was first employed) are fond of adopting when criticizing the errors of greater men than themselves. With Guasti and other sincere Catholics he demurs to any estimate of the friar which would make him in any sense a precursor of Luther, herein perhaps taking a somewhat short-sighted view. No doubt Savonarola had no conscious intention of separating himself from the Catholic Church; but had the German reformers, in the early days at all events, any more? Even so late as 1579 a pious Rhenish nobleman, a champion of Protestantism, could write of "notre vraie, indoubtable, Catholique (toutefois non Romaine) religion." It is not, after all, any question of organization, of ceremony, even of theology, which in the last resort divides Papist—we use the term merely as the least question-begging—from Protestant; the real point at issue is, May a man place his conscience in another man's keeping? Savonarola said "No," and was hanged for it. Observe, we are saying nothing as to the rights or wrongs of the case. When the prophet said "de Sion exhibit lex et verbum Domini de Jerusalem," he may have meant to inculcate the duty of implicit obedience to the Bishop of Rome. The Pope at any rate, if he thought about it at all, probably thought, with Father Lucas, that Sion meant Rome. Savonarola did not see why Florence should not fit the prophecy as well. For Luther, Wittenberg made a good enough Jerusalem. But surely, when we come to the root of the matter, it is no great solecism that was

committed when Savonarola's effigy was introduced on the base of Luther's statue.

One is naturally led when contemplating the career of Savonarola to compare it with that of another "renovator," more fortunate in the opportunity of his life, whom we have lately been a good deal called upon to study. How would matters have turned out, one cannot help wondering, if St. Francis had had to deal with Alexander VI., Friar Jerome with Innocent III. or Honorius III.? There was a moment, it must be remembered, when even the sagacious Innocent was undecided where to class the ragged enthusiasts from Umbria. Were they only a new instalment of those pestilent "Poor Men," or "Cathari," or however they might style themselves, who had taken so much suppressing? Or were they to be a valuable accession to the crew of Peter's bark? Innocent, as we know, decided one way, and Francis is a saint of the Church; Alexander took another view, and Savonarola became a "son of iniquity," who died a criminal's death, and whose character (so long as you do not praise him too unreservedly) you may appraise as you like. For we have not the smallest doubt that when the "brief" of July 21st, 1495, inviting him to Rome, was written, Alexander had settled on the line to be taken with the friar. Piero de' Medici was in Rome; Savonarola had put plenty of spokes in the Pope's wheel already, and—to us it seems the worst stain on his memory—was doing all he could to encourage the alliance between Florence and France in opposition to the league which the Spanish Pope (not, we may be sure, as an Italian patriot) was trying to form among the Italian states. Then, quite as well as two years later, he might have said, with an obvious reminiscence of Dante which Father Lucas has failed to notice, "si cerca altro che scomuniche." Would Francis have obeyed, knowing his man as Savonarola did? We greatly doubt it.

Another point wherein it seems to us that the friar has suffered some injustice arises out of his claim to be the recipient of direct Divine communications, in the form of visions or prophetic inspiration. His opponents in his own day got over the difficulty by assuming deliberate imposture on his part: a rough-and-ready solution which Father Lucas is too intelligent a critic to adopt in its crude form, not to mention that the theory of imposture in these cases is a very hydrofluoric acid of a solvent, and is best kept out of the clerical laboratory. But, after application of various theological tests, he holds that Savonarola was "deluded," a term which it must be confessed does not convey any very definite meaning to the lay mind. Does it mean that the visions and conversations with sacred personages had no "objective" reality?—to use a favourite term of the author's and of modern science. Well; but are we to deem that an "objective" angel took an "objective" coal, and "objectively" touched one prophet's lips; or that other prophets were "objectively" carried about by the hair of their heads? Savonarola doubtless did so deem. It would not have occurred to his age to argue that a live coal which, being applied to flesh, does not produce a sore, lacks one of the properties involved in the definition of a live coal. If

it was possible for the same thing to be and not to be in Isaiah's case, he would ask, why not in mine? Besides, there were much more recent cases. Abbot Joachim and St. Francis (again) had had visions in plenty; nor was the privilege confined to Churchmen. Was the great Dante merely using the licence of a poet when he put into the mouth of Beatrice a bitter reproach for his neglect of the visions and dreams with which, through her prayers, he had been admonished to lead a better life? As for prophecy, we need only look at the list of mediæval prophets, some of them canonized saints, which Father Lucas gives. Of course, we are only concerned with the question whether Savonarola himself believed in the reality of these communications, since it is upon the answer to this that our estimate of his character must depend. If he was "deluded," had he any reason, in reason, for suspecting it? So far as we see, there is no evidence of this; none, at least, which would satisfy any tribunal more competent to judge of evidence than a Papal commission of those days or a French court-martial of our own.

The most difficult problem in the whole of Savonarola's career is his sudden collapse, which may almost be said to have begun and finished between March 18th and April 7th, 1498. The fiasco of the ordeal by fire on the latter day no doubt achieved the final detachment of popular sympathy from him, and it is impossible not to recognize the ingenuity of those who contrived it, whoever they may have been; for that it was a mere impromptu of Franciscan jealousy we do not believe. But his hold on the imagination of the people must have weakened materially during the silence of those three weeks for the effect to have been what it was. Probably he had offended so many interests that whenever the loss of footing should come there were forces at work on every side to prevent any recovery of equilibrium.

These are a few scattered reflections arising from one of the most suggestive and conscientious studies of an instructive historical episode—if history ever is instructive, which one is apt to doubt. The book is brightly written, too, and with rather more of the "personal equation" than one is led by the "nihil obstat" and "imprimatur" on the back of the half-title to anticipate. The author has been, if anything, only too lavish with his "documents"; yet the reader will hardly feel inclined to dispense with any, least of all with the report of the debate of what may be called the Florentine Senate, held on March 14th, 1498, with its wonderful revelation of personal character among the members of that body. Even then it is plain that Savonarola had plenty of support among the more influential and respectable class of citizens. We may note, by the way, that some words of Antonio Malegonelle, speaking for the minority (four out of nine) of the jurists, have been misrendered. If the original as given in the note is correct, he did not say, "What forces me to a conclusion favourable to him is, that he declares it to be God's will that we should by all means believe him"; but "When he says that it is the will of God, I am constrained by all means to believe him." The difference is not unimportant.

It is curious that Machiavelli's name is absent from the very copious "Bibliographical List" prefixed to the volume. Fragmentary and brief as his notices of Savonarola are, they are highly significant, and require at least as much consideration by those who would appreciate the friar's position as, for example, the passages (to which the reader is duly referred) where he is mentioned by Philippe de Commines. And as to this bibliography, it would have been convenient if, as well as the date of the editions used by Father Lucas, he had added also that of the *first* edition of each work in the list.

In conclusion, we must thank Father Lucas for preserving one of the best—may we say the most pregnant?—bulls surely ever seen:—

"If Savonarola used language of the kind which we once heard described as 'so ambiguous that only one construction could be put upon it,' his apologists must not be surprised if it was.....construed accordingly."

It will be a long time, we take it, before this book is superseded as the standard authority in English on the history of the great Florentine preacher of righteousness; and we are glad that the author has given it one great qualification for the position—a copious and well-arranged index.

The sixth volume of Dr. Pastor's history of the Popes is of exceptional interest, dealing as it does also with the conflict between Alexander VI. and Savonarola. The account is well backed by references to such authorities as Gregorovius and Ranke at the bottom of each page, and fairer to the Pope—who really did show some statescraft and delayed action as long as he could—than some historians whose views have been distorted by Dominican legends. Something is said about Savonarola's claims to be considered a precursor of the Reformation, and a most portentous foot-note considers that this "old Lutheran view.....can no longer be held by any serious historian."

The volume also contains a good deal concerning art under Julius II., who, if no scholar, was certainly a leader of men. Probably no one could have managed Michael Angelo better than he did. It is clear that both were, as this history says, fiery spirits, personalities in the grand style, not amenable to ordinary methods.

A Dictionary of the Bible, dealing with its Language, Literature, and Contents, including the Biblical Theology. Edited by James Hastings. — Vol. II. *Feign — Kinsman.* (Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark.)

THE second volume of Dr. Hastings's 'Dictionary of the Bible,' which came to hand rather more than a year after the publication of the first volume, extends from 'Feign' to 'Kinsman,' and contains 870 pages. Its centre of gravity lies in its theological articles, and it appears best to offer some remarks on these before taking a more general view of the varied contributions embodied in the volume. The article on 'God' is divided into two parts. The first part, which treats on God in the Old Testament, is by Prof. A. B. Davidson, the New Testament portion of the subject being by Prof. W. Sanday. Prof. Davidson aims at

being both concise and exhaustive, and the result is hardly as satisfactory as one might have been led to expect. The article is, of course, full of useful and important information; but we cannot say that the greatness of the subject is sufficiently reflected in the manner of treatment. It is surprising to find that the divine name Yah (יְהוָה) is omitted altogether. Prof. Davidson probably regards it as a contraction of the name Yahweh; but even so, it would have been much better not to leave it unmentioned. It is still more startling to read that the "conflate form" of Jehovah "is not older in date than the time of the Reformation." Surely this can only be a slip on Dr. Davidson's part, for the fact is that most of the earliest known Hebrew MSS. (from the ninth century onwards) have this pointing. It will, we think, be agreed that Prof. Sanday's contribution on 'God in the New Testament' is much more than equal in merit to Prof. Davidson's article. We like the spirited exposition which is here combined with clear insight and judgment, and it is also refreshing to note the genial treatment that is meted out to views which Prof. Sanday feels bound to reject. From the same pen comes also the greatest and most important article in the volume, namely, that on 'Jesus Christ.' We must congratulate the editor on having assigned this subject to Dr. Sanday, for the result is the best that could possibly be expected. The article is long enough to make up a book by itself, and it is fully worthy of appearing in that form. Prof. Sanday is, of course, orthodox to the core, and the article is in some sense an apologetic one; but the quality of geniality and large-heartedness is also here sufficiently to the fore, and it is interesting to watch the writer's sympathetic grappling with the various difficulties of his theme. The age of anathemas is, indeed, gone by, and we fancy that an Athanasius at this end of the nineteenth century would have tried to soften down some of the clauses that are contained in the great creed. It would be interesting to enlarge on several other theological articles in the volume, but the exigencies of space bid us condense our remarks. The Rev. R. L. Otley writes learnedly and well on the 'Incarnation,' and Prof. Swete contributes an equally learned article on the 'Holy Spirit.' The article on 'Gnosticism' might have offered an opportunity of enlarging on the theology of various heretical schools of thought in early times; but the Rev. A. C. Headlam is very brief, and, in fact, tells us very little about the Gnostics. We cannot help remarking that it might have been better to curtail the article on the word 'Go' (by Dr. Hastings himself) which follows, and to give half or more of the ten columns which it fills to a further development of the contribution on Gnosticism.

A transition from the purely theological articles to those of a more general tendency is formed by the articles on New Testament books. But of these we can only mention one or two. One of the still unsolved Biblical problems is the authorship of the Gospel assigned to St. John, and the article on this subject by the Rev. H. R. Reynolds is distinguished by great learning and sympathetic treatment; but we are, perhaps, justified in saying that the writer tries—un-

consciously, no doubt—to help forward his argument by rhetoric. In some parts he also appears to be rather vague. One must realize, however, that the main object of the article is probably not to convince *ab initio* that St. John wrote the Gospel, but to strengthen the conviction of those who already hold the same view. In addition to what has just been said on this Gospel, we will only mention that supplementary information on the subject must necessarily be found in Prof. Salmond's article on the Epistles of St. John, and also in the general article on the 'Gospels' by Prof. Stanton.

In taking a more general survey of the articles contained in the present volume, it may be allowed that a high level has been reached in the work as a whole, although, as may partly have been gathered from what has already been said, the new instalment is open to attack on more points than the volume which preceded it. Here are in brief some of the best articles in the new issue. Prof. Driver writes on 'Habakkuk,' 'Host of Heaven,' 'Jacob,' and other subjects; among Prof. Ryle's articles is one on 'Genesis'; the article on 'Isaiah' is by Prof. G. A. Smith; Prof. König, of Rostock, writes on 'Judges' and 'Jonah'; Prof. Sayce convinces us that as yet we know next to nothing on the language of the Hittites; the Rev. F. H. Woods writes well on the 'Flood'; Prof. Ramsay instructs us on, *e.g.*, the subject of 'Galatia' and 'Illyricum'; Prof. A. Macalister contributes trustworthy information on 'Food'; and Lieut.-Col. Conder writes a clever and painstaking article on 'Jerusalem.' A remark may be repeated here contained in our review of vol. i. (see *Athenæum* for April 16th, 1898), which was to the effect that "the mention of these few names and articles must only be taken as specimens of the many others which deserve recording." We can also endorse several other words of praise uttered then, though we trust that in the second half of the dictionary, which is yet to come, great care will be taken to avoid error and weakness of argument. It is to be hoped that the editor's evident desire not to sacrifice scientific insight to theological soundness may be fully realized. The task of holding the balance even is by no means an easy one. It is, at any rate, an undertaking which deserves a very liberal amount of sympathy.

Songs and Poems in the Gaelic Language. By Rob Donn, the Reay Country Bard. Edited by Hew Morrison. (Edinburgh, Grant.) *Orain agus Dain.* Le Rob Donn Mac-Aoidh. Edited by the Rev. Adam Gunn, Durness, and Malcolm Macfarlane. Illustrated. (Glasgow, Mackay.)

CELTIC students should be grateful to these editors for their several efforts to recall the memory of one of the best of the Highland bards. Dr. Mackintosh Mackay's edition of the poems evoked an appreciative article from Lockhart in the *Quarterly Review* (July, 1831), which still deserves reading, if only to note the difference of the interest taken in those days and in these in matters Celtic. Lockhart appeals impressively to a public to whom the very existence of Gaelic literature was either a novelty or dis-

credited by the suspicions not altogether unjustly aroused by Macpherson.

To-day the researches of foreign specialists have put native writers on their mettle, and we are constantly receiving an accession from Celtic sources to the common wealth of our national literature. Drs. Sigerson and Hyde, Mrs. Hinkson and Mr. Yeats, Neil Munro and Fiona Macleod are doing good work for their several sections of Gaelic, and the reproduction of the best works of the remarkable group of rustic yet intensely perceptive and vivacious writers who flourished in the Scottish Highlands during the eighteenth century is a timely reinforcement to their efforts. Of that group, Rob Donn is the most esteemed northern representative, as Alexander Macdonald (Alasdair MacMhaighsteir) and Duncan Bàn MacIntyre, his contemporaries, were famous in the west.

Though Rob was born (1714) in the "Duthaich Mhic Aoidh" and valley of Strathmore, in Sutherlandshire, and was for a time in the service of Lord Reay, his claim to be a "real Mackay" has been questioned by the first of our present editors. His patronymic seems to have been Calder, though the epithet Donn (brown) was also hereditary in his family. But Messrs. Gunn and Macfarlane, though they have not absolutely disproved the suggestion of Mr. Morrison, have made it clear that many individuals were called indifferently Calder or Mackay; and whether the Calders were originally immigrants, or a subordinate sept of the larger clan, or merely "real Mackays" called by a trade name (*Callduinnich*, "hazel-workers"), cannot now, probably, be ascertained with certainty. The great clans were almost small nations, and a multiplicity of minor cognomens was inevitable. For all practical purposes Rob Donn was a Mackay.

The incidents of his life are few, and have already been well treated by his clansman Sheriff Mackay in the 'Dictionary of National Biography.'

Like Duncan Bàn, Rob was illiterate; but he had many elements of education which Board schools cannot impart. He was the son of his mother, who, like many a Highland *cailleach*, was a storehouse of her country's music and traditions; he was early in close relation with his educated kinsmen in a class above him; and he travelled far and wide over the south of Scotland and north of England in the humble, but not mechanical capacity of a drover and dealer at fairs. In the distant and romantic region in which he lived there had been for years an exceptional immunity from the clan raids and forays which desolated other districts so long, and from which the southern and eastern borders of the Mackay country were not exempt, while Sutherlands, Gunns, and Sinclairs were ready for the fray. The result was a fairly wealthy pastoral tenantry, tacksmen to the chiefs, and partaking of the culture of their times to a degree quite unsuspected by rash generalizers on the state of the Highlands. We had occasion some years since (*Athen.* No. 3243, December 21st, 1889) to notice the admirable picture given by the late Mr. Donald Sage of the characteristics of the country-side in the following generation. The tacksmen and graziers were then almost

all retired officers of the army or gentlemen who had otherwise had foreign experience; and from the time of Gustavus Adolphus, Munros and Mackays of all classes were in communication with the Continent through foreign wars. In the west and south a considerable amount of intercourse with France had a similar effect upon the upper rank of Highlanders, though there the culture was adverse to the fervent Protestantism which generally obtained in the north. Rob himself had some military experience in the 1st Sutherland Fencibles, to whom he seems to have been attached as bard, or *seannachie*, rather than as a "single soldier." But on the disbandment of the corps he reverted to his pastoral occupations, and died at the age of sixty-three in the midst of the friends and neighbours who honoured and revered his memory.

Rob Donn "lisped in numbers." A stanza still preserved is said to have been composed by him at the age of three. Therein he excuses himself to his mother for coming out without his clothes, the tailor having made his single garment button up behind! There is a premonition of his later powers of vituperation in the "*slaoduireachd* Mhurchaidh 'c Nèill."

Though not, like Dugald Buchanan, a "sacred" poet, Rob was ever on virtue's side. He is said to have lost his office of "bo-man," or grazing superintendent to Lord Reay, through his outspokenness on a delicate matter. It is his great merit as a satirist, if not to be absolutely free from coarseness, to be commendably free from vulgarity, time and place considered. His elegies are justly admired. His minister, Murdoch Macdonald, to whom he was indebted for the script of many of his poems, and for an introduction to the works of Pope, which curiously interested him, was the subject of one of his laments. Others were devoted to the Earl of Sutherland; to Donald, fourth Lord Reay, his chief; to John Mackay of Musal, his friend and employer; and indeed to all men of mark in the circle of his acquaintance. Amongst them the 'Marbhrann Eòghainn,' 'Lament for Ewen,' has been the most quoted and paraphrased. It deserves its reputation, though there is a certain comedy attached to it. Ewen was a poor and aged man who dwelt alone in a hut to which Rob, an incorrigible poacher, would repair on his stalking expeditions. Finding Ewen one day in *extremis*, and apparently unconscious, the bard began to moralize aloud in the numbers now familiar to Gaelic students. The parallel drawn between the statesman Pelham, who had just died, and the herdsman at Polla was proceeding to its climax, when the supposed corpse furtively reached for a stick, and brought it soundly over the shoulders of the declaimer. "Where in the world was a meaner than the son of your father?" was too much for a Highlander, though crippled and dying.

Like all his race Rob Donn is great in love. "Is trom leam an aire," his appeal to Ann Morrison, who jilted him, is admirable in its pleading; and his dramatic power, as well as his mastery of rhythm, comes out in the ineffable scorn of the lines attributed to Ann. We are not sure that the order of Mr. Morrison's version of this poem is so emphatic as that of Mackintosh

Mackay, though the last two lines seem better placed. "Fàgainn" seems better than "fàg thu."

'Ged is socrach mo leabaidh' is another melodious love song to the air of 'Logie o' Buchan.' The popular 'Iseabail nic-Aoidh' is constructed as a pibroch, and it is not clear why Mr. Morrison, who, in his version in the preface, keeps the *crunluath*, the rapid climax of notes and metre, in its proper place, should transpose the stanzas in the text. The hurrying, tumultuous lines beginning "Seall sibh air a cheannaidh-eachd" come far more happily at the end. The lilting melody which is Rob's distinctive mark is nowhere more dominant than in the sprightly and humorous 'Briogais Mhic Ruairi,' 'Macrory's Breeks,' the tune of which all dancers ought to know:—

An d'fhidir, no'n d'fhairich, no'n cuala sibh
Co idir thug briogais Mhic Ruairidh leis?

Such pieces as these are the despair of translators. Apart from the impossibility of reproducing the assonance which is their leading feature, the presence of, or obsession by, a particular tune is almost as needful as it must have been to the original author.

Besides epigrams, elegies, and love songs, a Highlander in 1745 must inevitably touch the patriotic chord. It is interesting, though not surprising, to find, contrary to the repeated half-truths of which Macaulay set the fashion, that, like Duncan MacIntyre, Rob Donn could think for himself in political matters, and, in spite of his Whig chief and Whig surroundings, fall into line with the mass of his countrymen.

An diugh, an diugh, gur reusontach
Dhuinn éirigh ann an sanntachas

is the beginning of as frankly Jacobite and enthusiastic a welcome as Prince Charlie could have heard in Moidart or Lochaber.

It is almost invidious to draw comparisons between two editions which indicate so much careful research. The earlier in date—Mr. Morrison's—cannot but have been of value for its successor. Of course, the marked differences between the Sutherland dialect, in which the poems were originally composed, and the western or literary tongue into which the early transcribers rendered them, constitute the crux for editors. To our thinking Messrs. Gunn and Macfarlane have been bolder, and therefore more successful, in restoring the text, and thereby bringing the rhymes and assonances into their original harmony.

Other good features of their work are English verse translations of several pieces by Pattison, Angus Mackay, and others; a scholarly appendix by Mr. Gunn on the peculiarities of Northern Gaelic, with a fuller glossary than that in Mr. Morrison's work; and the melodies of about fifty pieces, principally noted down in the Reay country by the late John Monro. It is interesting to find several variants of airs also common in Ireland: 'The Harp that Once,' 'The Cruiskeen Lawn,' and 'The Groves of Blarney.' The book is well turned out, and, like its fellow, will be valuable to lovers of Gaelic scholarship.

As a poet Rob Donn stands high. In satire he resembles Iain Lom; he does not equal MacIntyre in natural descriptions, nor Alasdair MacMhaighstèir in passion;

but he has many of the merits of both, as well as a rare flavour and spirit of his own.

Napoleon's Invasion of Russia. By Hereford B. George. (Fisher Unwin.)

MR. GEORGE describes the invasion of Russia in 1812 as Napoleon's "greatest military enterprise, the greatest in authentic history." Had he qualified this remark by interpolating between "authentic" and "history" the word "modern," it would have been possible to agree with him; but one cannot leave out of sight Hannibal's invasion of Rome as the final act of a march through Spain, Southern France, and Northern Italy, nor Alexander's extraordinary expedition to India. What, however, is as remarkable as the invasion of Russia is the fact that, as Mr. George points out, there is room still for a politico-military account of the campaign of 1812, and very ably has Mr. George filled up the gap. For the causes of the war and the events which led up to it we may refer the reader to the book itself, merely touching on the attitude of the great powers. The Tsar by his ukase of December 31st, 1810, plainly indicated his determination to assert his independence of Napoleon with reference to the continental system, even at the risk of war with the great conqueror. More than a year elapsed, however, before the first shot was fired. The interval was spent by the Tsar in hopes that the conflict might be avoided, and in making ineffectual attempts to obtain support from England, Prussia, and Austria. England, when approached on the subject, declined to take over a loan of four millions raised by Russia in Holland, distrusted the firmness of Alexander, and represented that the common interest could best be served by concentrating her efforts in the Peninsula, and that she must wait till a fit opportunity for coming forward as the ally of the Tsar presented itself. As to Prussia, though anxious to shake off the yoke of Napoleon,

"the King and his minister fully realised that there was no escape from Napoleon's grasp without very effectual assistance; and that assistance Austria could not give, Russia did not seem willing to give, at any rate for the present."

"Geographical considerations determined to a very great extent the attitude of all three powers. These, as will appear later, contributed to the Russian resolution to stand strictly on the defensive, quite as much as the desire to put Napoleon formally in the wrong. They were still more important to Austria and Prussia. Austria had her own interests on the Danube, which were threatened by the conquests Russia seemed to be making from Turkey. But the vital point for both was that they lay geographically between Napoleon's Empire and Russia, and therefore must necessarily bear the brunt of the war if they leagued with Russia against him."

It must be explained that by "the three powers" Prussia, Austria, and Russia are meant.

Napoleon saw as early as the beginning of 1811 that war would almost certainly take place, and prepared for it cautiously and at first slowly. In February, 1812, he began to throw off the mask, and on March 14th of that year a treaty between Austria and France was signed, by which it was stipulated that the former should furnish a

contingent. Prussia, which provided a spectacle, says Mr. George, both pathetic and ignominious, had also been directed to supply troops, as well as the Confederation of the Rhine and other German powers.

A point of interest is the strength of the French army, including the allies and subject states, which took part in the gigantic enterprise. The force which entered Russia at midsummer with those that crossed the frontier later made a grand total, according to Chambray—whom the author accepts as the best authority on the subject—of 533,479 infantry, 96,579 cavalry, 179,902 horses, and 1,242 field pieces. To these, again, must be added the artillerymen, engineers, and administrative troops and staff. We shall not, therefore, be far wrong if we put down the number of those who from first to last took part in the campaign at 650,000 of all ranks, arms, and departments. Even with the improved roads of modern days, increased resources in the shape of food and forage, and the valuable assistance of railways, the task of moving and supplying such an enormous host would be most difficult. It must have been an almost superhuman feat in 1812. Indeed, there was a complete breakdown in the supply service. Napoleon was a wonderful administrator, and anticipated all possible requirements. How then was there such a complete failure during the retreat? The author puts the point thus:—

"Every possible provision had been made beforehand, but it was impossible to get the supplies to the troops unless they moved too slowly to achieve anything. To use an apparent bull, the invasion of Russia could only succeed if it never took place, in other words if the threatening attitude of an army in overwhelming numbers caused Russia to give way."

The truth is that the scheme was so large as to be impossible, considering the nature of the war and the country; but Napoleon would never admit that anything was impossible. Matters might have gone better, however, save for two or three circumstances. The Commissariat officers had been trained in a vicious school, whose principal axiom was that that troops should subsist on local resources; but there were practically no local resources, and such as were available were not systematically collected and distributed. The troops had got into the way of scattering to maraud; hence discipline fell to pieces, and a regular distribution would have been difficult, if not impossible. From various reasons, indeed, the army had become demoralized, from the highest ranks to the lowest. The roads were encumbered and the columns impeded by the large number of vehicles laden with plunder which started with the army from Moscow. The chiefs of army corps—except Davout—and the officers of administration were either neglectful of their duty or afraid of responsibility. Hence full use was not made of the stores on the line of retreat. For example, read the following passage, which is amply authenticated by a host of officers who took part in the campaign. Napoleon tried to take too much spoil from Moscow:—

"Not unnaturally Napoleon's army followed his example: in spite of strenuous orders, the provision waggons were half-filled with valuables which ultimately were nearly all lost; the soldiers put silver cups and pieces of rich silk into their knapsacks instead of bread, at once

overloading and starving themselves. No one from the Emperor downwards seemed to take the matter seriously, or realised that they had every prospect of having to struggle for their very lives. The army was doomed to destruction largely through its own lack of proper organisation. If the Russians had left it unmolested, it would have perished of hunger and cold; if the winter could by miracle have been postponed by a month, very few would have withstood both hunger and the Cossacks."

The disasters of the campaign have been often attributed to the cold. All students of the subject, however, are now agreed that, great though the sufferings of the invaders were, the cold weather came later than usual. Had Napoleon after the capture of Smolensk suspended the campaign for the year, in accordance with the opinion of some of his chief commanders, the winter would have caused nothing more than inconvenience. Had he not been deluded into wasting precious weeks at Moscow by the idea that the Tsar would make peace, he would have recrossed the Niemen before the winter had made itself much felt.

Turning to the Russian side, let us examine their means and scheme of defence. There is less certainty than in the case of the invaders as to numbers. It would seem, however, fairly well established that to resist the first shock of the invasion there were only 213,000 men divided into three armies, under respectively Barclay de Tolly, Bagration, and Tormazov. There were also garrisons, reserves brought later into the field, the 20,000 men of the army of Finland, and the army of Moldavia, about 60,000 men, the two latter playing important parts during the last act of the drama.

The Tsar, however, though at first his forces were so numerically inferior, possessed the great advantages resulting from his army being of one nationality, and the theatre of war being occupied by a loyal and devoted population. As to the scheme of defence adopted the author expresses in the following passage conclusions which we share:—

"Much has been written about the example set by Wellington in the campaign of Torres Vedras having struck the imagination of the Tsar, and having determined his ultimate resolution to adopt similar measures. The aspect of national resistance in Spain had no doubt its influence in Russia, just as it had inspired Stein and the Prussian patriots with a hope of raising a similar resistance in Germany. There was also an object lesson much nearer home, if more remote in time, in the campaign of Poltava which ruined Charles XII. But indeed no example was necessary; the general principle of avoiding decisive actions, and making the enemy feel the full effect of the great extent of the territory he was invading, was written on the face of things in unmistakable characters. On every side, we find indications that this was to be the Russian system of defence."

The burning of Moscow has given rise to much discussion and many theories. It is not easy to believe that it was deliberately burnt, as the Russians at the time thought, for such an act would have been plainly suicidal. Neither is it likely that it was set on fire by Count Rostopchin, the governor. In all campaigns abandoned houses are very apt to take fire, and the city of Moscow, being of wood, was specially exposed to this danger. Carelessness, drink, or the mischievous freak of a young soldier

might easily have caused the catastrophe. Mr. George cautiously observes, after going carefully into the matter:—

"On the face of the undoubted facts there is no adequate evidence that the burning of Moscow was deliberate, though there is of course no evidence that it was not. The case against Count Rostopchin rests mainly on the fact that his contemporaries believed it, chiefly on his own avowal, and refused to believe his subsequent denial."

Mr. George has not been, like many writers, so dazzled by Napoleon's wonderful powers as to praise his methods perpetually as the best possible, or multiply reasons and excuses where his genius failed. "The French writers," he says, for instance, "except the honest Chambray, speak of the battle of Valutino, or Lubino as the Russians call it, as a brilliant victory. The French generals had allowed themselves to drift into a serious action, desperately contested in its last stage, for no adequate reason, and their master never corrected their blunder; in fact he shared it, for he reinforced Ney while never ordering Junot to move. They had failed, in spite of repeated efforts, to drive the enemy from his position: they had suffered very heavily: if this be a victory, words have no meaning."

Again, our critic adds concerning Borodino:—

"On the whole the theory that Napoleon was physically, and therefore mentally, disabled from doing his best at Borodino must be dismissed to the limbo of similar legends, which are made to account for his every failure to achieve a startling success. Such difficulties he doubtless did encounter in the course of his career; but it is sufficiently brilliant, with all the failures, not to need artificial adornment."

Space does not allow us to consider further these able pages, which, we may say in conclusion, form a well-written and valuable contribution to political and military history.

NEW NOVELS.

The Path of a Star. By S. Jeannette Duncan. (Methuen & Co.)

THIS is a good piece of work, the contrasted characters of the actress, the Salvation Army girl, and the lady unattached being impressed on us with the reality and force we have become accustomed to in Mrs. Cotes's writings. But we would yet make an appeal to this clever author to avoid verbal posture-making. A little of this kind of intensity is "vastly enough," to use her own expression. A "floating debris of strange sayings," to borrow another phrase, is almost too heavy an encumbrance, or "sudd," for any but the strongest streams of narrative, and even the most accomplished phrasemonger is often the worse for the effort it costs. Like vivisection, it requires the most obvious and immediate gains to justify it. We do not say that our author's dark sayings are all otiose. Often a thought requires something unusual in its phrasing. But enough of a protest which has so far relieved us that we can speak with unreserved pleasure of the story. It is concerned with two friends, very diverse in their attitude to life, who are continuing in Calcutta an intimacy commenced at Oxford, and the influence of the three women friends we have mentioned upon their thoughts and fortunes. The local colour is good, and the minor characters are none of them superfluous.

Caramella. By George P. Hawtrey. (Arrow-smith.)

MR. HAWTREY is a gentle joker, and we think his readers will generally sympathize with the pleasure he avows having experienced in writing this trifle. There is plenty of harmless satire in the account of the Utopian state of Caramella, the land of the lotos, where every one is well off, and political offices go begging. An idler at home, who has deviated to Caramella on his arrival in South Africa, where he is to be "dumped" as a ne'er-do-weel, finds himself in the extraordinary position of being the most energetic man in his new country. Fortunately the lotos has not subdued the energies of the charming women of the island, and it is through their aid, and not wholly without their opposition, that he puts himself in the position of political autocrat, and is enabled at the crisis of a revolution, got up by foreign mercenaries, to hand over Caramella, with its "open door," to Admiral Gibbons and the protection of the British flag. Among other Caramese ideas, it is interesting to note that "for a country which is entirely surrounded by sea, the best army is one which is small, inefficient, and expensive."

Dr. Nikola's Experiment. By Guy Boothby. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

DR. NIKOLA tries to rejuvenate an aged Spaniard and succeeds too well. He is assisted in the task by a very foolish young man who narrates the circumstances, and falls in love with the beautiful great-granddaughter of the subject of the experiment. The various characters incur some dangers in the course of their adventure, but these are never of a very thrilling nature, and it must be confessed that the excitement aroused is somewhat languid. And after all what is a book like this without violent excitement!

For the Sake of the Duchesse. By S. Walkey. (Arrowsmith.)

THESE alarms and excursions will doubtless find their fitting localization on the stage. The noisome dungeon in which the hero is confined, and the duel in the snow between two passionate women, will possibly be more effective in dramatic form; they are a little crude in their present appearance. In the meantime lovers of incident may rejoice in a new volume of sensations written round a semi-historical theme in the days of the Regent Orleans. The hero is a battered man of fortune and former lieutenant in the Guards, whom the Regent and the Abbé Dubois deem a likely instrument for a precious piece of iniquity which is to serve them in counterplotting against Alberoni and others. The novel is one of action, after the sort which Dumas did supremely, and many others now do moderately. The honour of the adventurer, his sword play, and his mistress were discoveries once in fiction, but now they have begun to pall because they have been so often used.

Love Made Manifest. By Guy Boothby. (Ward, Lock & Co.)

MR. BOOTHBY here wanders from his beaten track of scientific mystery and gives a study of the ordinary human passion of love. One

of the characters seems to us really living, that of the woman; her cynicism and the violence of her passionate love are both true and interesting. But Claude is one of those literary prigs who never seem to appear in real life; however, his determination to expiate his sins by going to the lepers' island, though hard on the woman, gives scope for some gruesome description.

They Laugh that Win. By Effie A. Rowlands. (Routledge & Sons.)

A SELFISH man and an unpleasant woman both make unusual efforts to secure money that is not theirs, the man by concealing the marriage of the dead relation he hopes to succeed, the woman by trying to keep her brother unmarried. They both succeed for a time, as the heroine after a railway accident loses her memory, but she recovers it in time to foil the efforts of the claimant to her estate, while the unpleasant woman also sees her hopes disappointed. The story is quite innocuous, and the plot reasonable; unfortunately it lacks distinction, and none of the characters is endowed with sufficient vitality to hold the attention of the reader.

LITERATURE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The Gospel according to St. Mark. The Greek Text, with Introduction, Notes, and Indices. By Henry Barclay Swete, D.D. (Macmillan & Co.)—This able and scholarly book marks a considerable advance. The writer says, very truly, in his preface, that the serious study of the Gospels should begin with that of St. Mark, as being the earliest of the four, and throughout a large part of the narrative the nearest to the common source. He also claims that "the simplest book of the New Testament brings us nearest to the feet of the Master." We are thus led to expect a really critical attempt to hear what St. Mark, taken by himself, actually says, and to envisage the picture which was first drawn of the life and person of Jesus. Dr. Swete has promising qualifications for the task. He has studied the text of St. Mark rather than commentaries on it. Even the great book of Bernhard Weiss is not mentioned, though other modern works are said to have been consulted. And he often shows very fresh historical insight. The introduction is a piece of sound work, and bears traces of much labour. The traditions about St. Mark are carefully studied, and treated, we may say, with goodwill. St. Peter is regarded as the principal, but not the only source of the Evangelist's information; and the literary equipment of the writer, as well as the free treatment he gave his materials, is most judiciously estimated. There is, however, no effort—and without it the introduction is surely incomplete—to realize the circumstances, needs, and tendencies of the Christian world for which the Gospel was written. Surely personal details about the writer and his friends, however interesting, are not all that can be furnished to show how such a work was called for and what place it filled in the growth of Christian thought. In his commentary Dr. Swete is learned and full. His text is that of Westcott and Hort, with some exceptions; and there is a critical apparatus in which the principal facts about the variants are recorded, some new material being also incorporated. All that can reasonably be asked as to words and points of antiquities is provided with a scholar's care and accuracy. The great fault we have to find with Dr. Swete as an interpreter is one which he shares with nearly all English writers in the field, viz., that he does not isolate his author sufficiently, nor in many passages allow him to say what he actually does say. When the Evangelists differ from each other, Dr. Swete often sacrifices St. Mark's view to

that of St. Matthew or St. Luke, thus making the latter co-ordinate rather than subordinate and later authorities. The hopes awakened by the preface are not fulfilled; but the book is, notwithstanding, one to be thankful for.

The First Epistle of St. Peter, i. 1-ii. 17. The Greek Text, with Introductory Lecture, Commentary, and Additional Notes. By the late F. J. A. Hort, D.D. (Macmillan & Co.)—The Bishop of Durham furnishes a most interesting prefatory note to this volume. He tells us how, in the year 1860, Dr. Lightfoot, Dr. Hort, and he himself planned a commentary on the New Testament; Dr. Lightfoot to treat the Pauline Epistles, Dr. Hort the Synoptic Gospels, the Acts, and the Epistles of St. James, St. Peter, and St. Jude, and Dr. Westcott the Gospel and Epistles of St. John. The three friends were agreed as to general principles; the New Testament was "to be interpreted as any other book," with loyal obedience to the strictest rules of criticism. How far this plan has been actually executed, and how little these excellent principles have hurried their distinguished holders to any extreme position, is known to the world. Dr. Westcott tells us further what were, in his view, the characteristics of Dr. Hort as an expositor. They are summed up under the heads of independence of traditional opinion, keen historical insight, unwearied thoroughness, the endeavour to show the coherence of all revelation and all life, and, lastly, strong interest in theology. Dr. Lightfoot he considered deficient in such interest: a verdict in which many will agree with him. This estimate is fully borne out by the fragment of a commentary now before us, which it is sad to think of as the only detailed exegesis the world is to obtain from such splendid learning and such noble instincts. The notes, of which there are generally four or five pages of close print in double columns to a line of the Greek text, show an immense power of taking pains. The history of words and notions is followed skilfully and patiently through the Septuagint, the literature of the Rabbis, and that of the early fathers; and illustrations are drawn from many other quarters. No finer work has yet been done on early Christian terms, such as "Lord," "inheritance," "holy," and one grieves to think how much the clearness of vision and direct truthfulness displayed in this fragment might have done for theology if it had been permitted to Dr. Hort to accomplish more of what he undertook. The introduction we cannot but regard as much inferior to the notes; and it is permissible to doubt if Dr. Hort would have printed it as it stands. The Petrine authorship is accepted, and the date placed so late as to make St. Peter a follower of St. Paul. The difficulties in the way of this theory are not faced, barely mentioned. What was the history of St. Peter's mind from the time when he was chosen by a party at Corinth as their figure-head against St. Paul to the time when he adopted Pauline doctrine so fully as this Epistle does? How is it that St. Peter, who required an interpreter when addressing Greek audiences, is the author of an Epistle clothed in Greek as flowing and elegant as any in the New Testament? And, lastly, how did St. Peter, who was so deeply interested in the life and sayings of Jesus, and whose preaching when St. Mark was his interpreter consisted largely of reminiscences of the first appearance of the Gospel, come to write an Epistle destitute of references to such themes, and moving in a totally different atmosphere? An introduction which does not consider these questions can scarcely be deemed adequate. But the notes deserve to be classical in British theology.

The International Critical Commentary.—The Gospel according to St. Luke. By the Rev. A. Plummer, D.D. (Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark.)—This book, which has appeared in a second edition, is in many ways a notable production,

and will prove invaluable to the clergyman, being written by an able and devout man, who is abreast with modern learning on his subject. In the absence of the volume promised in this series which is to deal with the Synoptic Gospels as a whole, and the delay of which may well be due to the complexity of the Synoptic problem and the inadequate preparation of the English mind for its proper treatment, it is well to have good studies of the separate Gospels, such as Dr. Swete's on St. Mark, and Dr. Plummer's on St. Luke. The introduction works out with great care the conclusions as to the authorship of this Gospel which have all tradition on their side, and those as to its date and place of origin which students of most schools now hold. The problem is solved too much, perhaps, by personal considerations; and too little attention is paid to movements of thought in the Church which found expression in a work of such distinct character as the third Gospel. There is no adequate statement to explain the universalism of the Gospel or its friendship for the poor. On the other hand, Dr. Plummer is full of enthusiasm for his author, whom he considers, as does Prof. Ramsay, as an historian of the first rank. The student will generally find full information in his pages; he will often be delighted with the renderings of old Latin versions, the use of which is a special feature of the work; and the most recent controversies are reported. The book is suited for the devotional rather than the critical student; but the latter also will consult it with advantage.

Novum Testamentum Latine secundum Editionem Hieronymi. Rec. I. Wordsworth et H. I. White.—Partis Prioris Fasciculus Quintus. Epilogus. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)—This fifth part completes the edition of the Gospels. It consists of a small portion of the Gospel of St. John with a few interesting notes, embracing noteworthy observations on the text of St. John. Then follows the Epilogus, a most valuable contribution to our knowledge of the history of the Vulgate and of the sources which Jerome used in constructing his text. The information thus gathered together and sifted with great critical ability is a considerable aid towards determining what was the text of the New Testament before Jerome's time. The Epilogus consists of various sections. In one Bishop Wordsworth discusses what were the Greek codices which Jerome consulted in the course of his translation and what was their character, and he shows conclusively that they belonged to the family of which δ , β , λ , are the representatives. He then takes note of some codices of which he has now been able to supply new and more complete and accurate collations. He next edits a few sets of headings or *capitula* not published before, or published only recently in separate monographs. Then follows an exceedingly able exposition of the country and character of the codices which have been used in the present edition of the Gospels, and a narrative of the history of the text which to some extent supplements Berger's able work, 'Histoire de la Vulgate.' Then there are sections on the rules followed in constituting the text and on various smaller points; and a copious orthographic *Index Verborum* and *Index Nominum Propriorum* conclude the book. Throughout the whole are displayed masterly scholarship, sound sense, great critical insight, and a resolute determination to be accurate and impartial. The first volume reflects the highest credit on English scholarship. It is a monument of learning, and is appropriately dedicated to the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

RECENT VERSE.

The Field Floridus, and other Poems. By Eugene Mason. (Grant Richards.)—Mr. Mason is neither without technical accomplishment nor without taste. He has a sense of colour and a

feeling for the decorative qualities of words. He can versify without making himself ridiculous. This is, we think, a fair sample of his achievement:—

On spaces of the minster wall
The tansured craftsman broods, and paints
The divers triumphs that befall
And crown the labours of God's saints.
In golden copes they kneel and sing
Where censers shake in Heav'n above:
We, too, are martyrs of a king,
The villains, we, of Love.

Within the rush-strawn, shadowy hall
We sing, love-red and passion-pale,
The damsels sit around the wall
With trailing gown and linen veil;
In silken robes their lovers list.
On cushions, at the maidens' feet,
With silver chains bound hand to wrist,
Each lover and his sweet.

A painful lord to serve is Love,
Small profit of our suit we drew,
His fairest wage to raise a glove,
To lace a slender, brodered shoe.
Or best, when pale as any rose,
At hearing of our miseries,
One takes her skirt and softly goes
With deep and shining eyes.

But that Mr. Mason is more than an accomplished versifier we are unable to persuade ourselves. Throughout his volume we remain cold and critical; we miss the immediate sting, the quickening of the blood, that is the sure test of indubitable poetry. It is a pity, too, that he gives us so much of that unpleasant hybrid of erotic and pseudo-Catholic sentiment which the French critics, from its inventor, call *Baudelaireanisme*. Surely this is one of the most artificial of all the poses, with its insolent selection of precisely those elements in a many-sided religion which make for sensuousness. Mr. Mason is by no means one of the worst offenders, but his sonnet on 'Gounod's "Messe Solennelle,"' to take one example only, admirably illustrates the temper to which we refer.

In the Wake of Spring. By Fred G. Bowles. (Unicorn Press.)—The lark's song, the joy of open skies and flowers, are, with some phases of love between woman and man, the theme of this booklet. Such things require a lyric gift, one of the rarest of gifts nowadays, and it cannot be said that Mr. Bowles possesses it. Two or three poems encourage one to hope for something really good; but the hope is not satisfied. The author is not careful enough about his lucidity or his choice of adjective, and many of his verses are dark sayings. "Sod" and "God" is overused as a rhyme. Tennyson used it, one knows, but never in his whole works so often as this slim book does. Mr. Bowles is best where he is simplest, as in 'Let us go, Love.' In one piece we read:—

I could understand,
Here on the upland, 'neath the sunlight amethyst,
How the dear Mother cometh, beatific—
Passionate peace of her deep heart to wit
Of the low lark with language long pacific.

This is not good or coherent stuff at all. And what is "to wist"? Is it Surrey's "to whist" (to be silent), or does it somehow mean "to know"? Versifiers have no right to be above English, which is, one may add, an effective instrument without ill-considered Latinisms.

Poets are seldom the best critics of their own work, and one meets with things surprisingly good and bad which it seems hardly possible to credit one pen with. Such variety is met in the *Poems* by Richard Realf, poet, soldier, workman (Funk & Wagnalls), which Mr. R. J. Hinton has collected with a memoir. A sad life of strange uncontrol, with bright interspaces of hope and promise, was Realf's. Promise is certainly visible in these verses rather than performance, still we note unfaltering vigour and genuine achievement here and there. The wonder is that a man can write so well in the grand style—a style homely and all the more attractive for the absence of meretricious ornament—and then mangle grammar or spoil two lines by writing:—

I think you are not Joshua, but
Aaron art.

But many of the sonnets and war songs to be

read here are fine in a quiet and a passionate way, too, and worthy of remembrance.

Child Illa, and other Poems. By Wilfred Woollam. (Sheffield, J. A. Bain; London, Simpkin & Marshall.)—These verses are of varying merit, and the author's powers are certainly not at present equal to sustaining a poem of such length as 'Child Illa'; still, taste and ready expression, without the laboured effect which renders much of modern verse so tedious, are notable qualities in these pages. It is not quite clear always how far Mr. Woollam wishes to be comic. His efforts in this line are not good, and his vocabulary needs more care in the serious pieces. In one line it is effective, in the next perilously near a fatal want of dignity. In simple stanzas he is best. More like

After the sunshine sweetness
In sod and flower and tree;
After the floods the fleetness
Of streamlets to the sea,

would be welcome to a reviewer jaded with elaborate artifice.

EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE.

Common Sense in Education and Teaching. By P. A. Barnett. (Longmans & Co.)—Mr. Barnett tells us that the basis of his book is a series of lectures delivered last year. As these lectures were delivered by himself, the treatise founded on them exhibits greater uniformity of plan than the earlier work edited by him and entitled 'Teaching and Organization.' This volume has also the advantage of embodying the experience and opinions of one person—a person who has had much to do professionally with both primary and secondary schools. The earlier chapters are more or less introductory, and treat of principles of training and processes of method which, being based on general considerations, often of a physical, sometimes of a psychological kind (if, indeed, the two kinds can be definitely separated), underlie the requirements of all reasonable systems of education. The later portion of the book discusses in greater detail varying curricula adopted under different conditions of time and place, and the best way of combining and teaching the subjects placed in them. Mr. Barnett is more concerned about liberal education than about technical or professional instruction, and his general argument maintains—and rightly maintains—that liberal education should be the work of the primary as well as of the secondary school. Unfortunately primary work is done under a cramping time limit (the age of fourteen); but in other respects it is difficult to draw a hard-and-fast line between the two grades of instruction. The weaknesses and mistakes in method which Mr. Barnett points out are more serious in public elementary schools than in others, because they influence the scholar at his most impressible age, and because the effects of them are to no appreciable extent mitigated by favourable environment in home life. In the chapters on discipline as the foundation of practical teaching we find several favourite freaks of teaching shown up in rather an amusing manner. The so-called Socratic method, dear to the givers of object-lessons, is severely, but fairly criticized. This becomes a "kind of guessing competition" to find out what the teacher wishes the children to say. We can only make a boy acquire knowledge in one of three ways—he may observe, he may infer, or he may be told; but the process of "eliciting" is wholly barren, and yet it holds a prominent place in at least 90 per cent. of notes of lessons prepared by young teachers. Indeed, the use of questioning in school has become excessive, and "a worship of mere machinery." If we remember rightly, Mr. Matthew Arnold pointed out the danger of this worship long ago. Not only has the use of questioning become excessive, it has also become wrong-sided: in our schoolrooms the teacher endlessly interrogates the pupil: in the

normal course of nature the learner questions the teacher. This is a glaring evil in much elementary school work; but our attention is directed to others, less apparent perhaps, but equally tending to dissipation of energy, by which so much effort is frittered away in schools. We are shown, *inter alia*, how in "science" lessons the habit of hasty generalization is acquired, and how boys and girls are habituated to the basing of much superstructure of induction on little foundation of fact. The chapters on "The Discipline of Character" and "The Physical Basis of Education" treat of many questions of organization and school management which in daily practice are difficult, and need judgment and common sense in their solution; and in these, as in many other school questions, the expert and the specialist are not always of one mind. We are glad to find that Mr. Barnett lends his authority to the infliction in certain circumstances of corporal punishment, and we agree with him that it should be administered *flagrante delicto*—"not in anger, indeed, but in warm blood": if it be deferred it is apt to assume the appearance of vindictiveness. Mr. Barnett justly appreciates the value of the Kindergarten system; but he perceives that it must be modified in England and America for application to children who are more restless animals and less amenable to "uniformed restraint" than their German brothers and sisters. As he wisely says, "Froebel was a teacher, not an official." Of the processes by which curricula have been arranged, and of the ways in which different studies have been fitted into them, we learn much in Mr. Barnett's interesting pages. He considers literature the most formative, the most distinctly humanizing, and therefore most valuable subject of study during school life. The importance of mathematics and natural science, whether biological or not, is fully recognized; these studies are welcomed into the approved curriculum, and occupy much of it. We are taught to be judiciously conservative in our treatment of existing school curricula, for they embody the best traditions of the past. In order to render the education of our schools and colleges more comprehensive, economy of time is absolutely necessary; this can only be gained by adopting the most efficient methods of teaching and by maintaining due proportion in our estimate of the relative values of different parts of any given subject. Mr. Barnett very rightly deprecates the minute subdivision of subjects, the tendency towards teaching "in snippets and arbitrary divisions," which is at once apparent in any grade or department of education dominated by an organizing bureaucracy. The plea, strongly urged throughout the book, for liberal education, complete in all grades, so far as it goes, makes it doubtful whether "commercial" geography, "commercial" arithmetic, and allied subjects, should be admitted into an approved school course; whether, in fact, they are independent, separable subjects at all. A careful perusal of the volume shows the difficulty and complexity of the task committed to the masters and mistresses of our schools of all grades. And, naturally enough, Mr. Barnett insists with no little urgency upon the desirability—the necessity even—of the careful training of teachers. The need of training is shown to be more pressing in the case of primary than of secondary schools, and at present the number of trained teachers in secondary schools is quite limited. The advantages of training are obvious and great, and they should be within easy reach of all young teachers who desire them. But all minds are not submitted to the *régime* of the training college with good results. We can recall frequent instances of teachers whose energies have apparently been cramped by a course of training—was the course too long?—and who have in consequence lost their spontaneity. It will be a bad thing for school life and progress

when entrance into any grade of the teaching profession is closed to all who are not certificated and trained. Mr. Barnett has treated of most of the vexed questions in the current controversies about education, and he has regarded them, as the title of his book led us to expect, from a "common sense" standpoint. He has by so doing given us a volume which will be read with interest by many who are neither professional specialists nor experts in the field of pedagogy.

The Study of History in Schools (New York, Macmillan Company) is the title of a report to the American Historical Association by a committee of seven, appointed in the early winter of 1896 to consider the question. Of course a good deal of the report is ideal. Thus it is easy to say that no course under four years is wholly adequate, but often difficult to find room for such a course in the pressure of competing subjects. A short course is not recommended, because it necessitates either (1) a dreary memorizing of dates and facts, names of kings and queens, &c.; or (2) the teaching of large and general ideas which are often beyond comprehension, general inferences the foundations of which the learners cannot possibly examine. But why need learners examine such inferences? The modern idea that nothing is to be taken on trust is creeping over teaching in more departments than one, and we think such objections are not of much weight; indeed, may lead to overburdening the student unduly at an early stage, such as that of a secondary school. Among many sensible results of the report may be mentioned the insistence on the fact that Welsh, Scottish, and Irish history is often neglected, and thus the composite nature of the elements of our nation is not realized. Constitutional and economic history are also put forward, departments which (in this country, at any rate) receive increasing attention, no one seriously believing that history is but "wars and rumours of wars." One of the appendices—rightly, we think—censures the little attention paid in our English public schools to our own history since the Reform Bill.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

Rome under the Caesars. By Émile Thomas, Professor at the University of Lille. With Illustrations and Maps. (Fisher Unwin.)—This book, which is a translation (though the fact is not stated on the title-page), is frankly intended for a popular audience. Most of the Latin words are explained, and all quotations are translated; and the style is that not of the critical scholar, but of the University Extension lecturer. It is, moreover, a trifle rhetorical, as when the author speaks of Rome conquering the universe. It is on the whole accurate, with the exception of certain slips we have noted, such as *menia* for *meniana*, "balconies." M. Thomas apparently enjoys a bit of scandal; for though he is careful to consider the blush of the young person, he generally tells the young person where to go if she wants to blush. "But enough of these painful memories," to quote the author's comment on the gladiatorial shows; "let us endeavour, if possible, to banish them from our minds." The title of the book is comprehensive. Without going beyond it, M. Thomas might have written enough (if we may be rhetorical too, for the nonce) to fill a library. M. Thomas's choice is somewhat arbitrary. Thus we have an account of funerals, and a good one too, but nothing about marriage. Soldiers' guilds are described, but not tradesmen's guilds. The palace on the Palatine is here and the country villa, but of the ordinary town house there is very little. There is very little about household arrangements and furniture, but a great deal about household ornaments. Dress is hardly touched. Books are here, but no newspapers; the army and the

imperial household, but nothing to speak of about the machinery of civil life. But, after all, the question is not whether the whole of Roman life is fully represented; the question is whether the description given here is good as far as it goes; the book is meant for those who know little, and is meant to make them try to learn more. In answering this question we must draw a distinction between the archaeological and literary parts. M. Thomas has but a bowing acquaintance with archaeology, as he modestly admits; and this part of the work (the first two chapters and portions of the third and fourth) is the least satisfactory. The author furnishes a succession of notes and impressions, and declares continually that he will not go into details, for which he supplies references to various special books. He begins with a short account of Pompeii which is very incomplete. Some of his statements are questionable. Thus he says that vehicles were practically never employed in the town itself, forgetting those deep ruts worn by wheels in the stone pavement. He supplies no plan of the Pompeian house, and does not mention the upper story which remains in one of them. Nor is the account of the Roman Forum satisfactory. The chief idea we carry away from it is that the Forum is very small and M. Thomas cannot think why it never grew bigger. The able work of M. Thédenat which was reviewed last year in our columns is far more interesting to read, though that is addressed to scholars. But enough of these painful memories. Let us endeavour to banish them from our minds, for the rest of the book is capital. These are the headings: "Baths," "Games," "New Year's Gifts," "Funerals," "Wills," "Country Life," "Schools and Books," "Art," "Moral Ideas," "The Army in Africa," "The Barbarians of the North," and "A Typical Roman of the Empire." Full of interest are all these chapters, which are based chiefly on literary evidence. M. Thomas is here quite at home. He knows his authors—not his Pliny and Juvenal only, but others, such as Sidorius—and the inscriptions. Now he repeats whimsical anecdotes of Roman feasts, and the gifts which the host gave to his guests (a pleasant substitute for the modern tip on the guest's part); now he describes the gorgeous pomp of a great funeral; anon we have the legacy-hunters and their tricks and manners, and the childless old reprobate chuckling over his success in outwitting them. He manages to get a great deal of fun out of wills. Who would think nowadays of praising a schoolmaster in his epitaph because he wrote wills very honestly for any one who asked him? There is something very comic, too, in the behaviour of Caesar's army before one of his Gallic campaigns: "Wills were being signed on all sides throughout the camp," from which Caesar acutely discerned that the men took a serious view of his expedition. The army in Africa is described in some detail from M. Cagnat's 'L'Armée Romaine d'Afrique,' which appeared a few years ago. Much of this will be new to most readers who are not specialists. The chapter on moral ideas is a brief account and criticism of Seneca, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius, which, though slight, is likely to interest readers in them. As the typical Roman of the Empire, Pliny's character and tastes are sketched from his letters. We could have wished M. Thomas had added another portrait or two. He does not confine himself to the early Empire, as we have seen; and from Sidorius and Symmachus he might have drawn the picture of the rich noble of the fourth century, which would have been a thing quite new to most people. There are a few illustrations, and they are mostly good and well reproduced. The frontispiece, a bird's-eye view of Pompeii, appears to be taken from a model, but we are left to suppose it is taken from the real town. The plan of the Roman Forum is poor. On the whole, in spite of the obvious

faults of this book, we can speak favourably of it. As we have already hinted, it would be useful to University Extension lecturers, and, we may add, it would find a fitting place in school libraries, and in those reading circles which have become fashionable of late years.

The Student's Gibbon: a History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Abridged by Sir William Smith. New and Revised Edition by A. H. J. Greenidge.—Part I. *From A.D. 98 to the Death of Justinian.* (Murray.)—It was, we think, an unwise innovation to publish the new edition of the 'Student's Gibbon' in two parts; at all events, the parts should have appeared together, for many students may want the whole work for immediate use. Mr. Greenidge's changes in the text of Sir William Smith's dexterous abridgment are, he says, "mainly in the direction of a restoration to the original form in which it was selected from Gibbon's history." But he has added notes and appendices, and these form a new feature which was not contemplated in the original work. The notes are not numerous, but they seem to us judicious. There are a good many appendices in the earlier part of the book, where the editor has more opportunity for exercising his knowledge of Roman constitutional law; while in the later part there are very few. Some of the appendices seem disproportionately long. Thus the gist of that on the "Scythians and Sarmatians" might have been compressed into a foot-note. We may remark an interesting excursus on the "Right of Triumphant during the Empire" (p. 116). There are a few illustrations at the heads and tails of chapters, and we note with satisfaction that the coins have come out more distinctly than in most works of the kind.

Recherches sur la Tradition Manuscrite des Lettres de l'Empereur Julien. Par J. Bidez et Fr. Cumont. (Brussels, Hayez.)—The general interest of this important study lies in the prospect which it holds out of a satisfactory and final critical edition of the correspondence of Julian the Apostate. The text of Hertlein is the best we have; but Hertlein, though he showed considerable critical faculty in dealing with the manuscript material collected by his predecessors, did not examine MSS. himself. The oldest MS. of all, though not the most important, in the Ambrosian Library, escaped notice. The discovery of some entirely new letters in the island of Halki (Chalce), near Constantinople, by M. Papadopoulos-Kerameus, suggested new considerations as to the transmission of the correspondence; and these two Belgian scholars, M. Cumont and M. Bidez, have collected the entire material, classified the MSS., and sketched the plan of a new edition. We hope that its appearance may not be long delayed.

LAW-BOOKS.

The Records of the Society of Gentlemen Practisers in the Courts of Law and Equity called the Law Society. Compiled from Manuscripts in the Possession of the Incorporated Law Society of the United Kingdom. (Incorporated Law Society.)—In the basement of the Incorporated Law Society's famous building in Chancery Lane—dread and hope of embryo solicitors—were lately found by Mr. Williamson, the secretary, the voluminous papers containing the history of an older society, which has developed (so says Mr. Edwin Freshfield in his careful and interesting introduction) into the most powerful of the London guilds, the great Incorporated Law Society itself—the society which, as every one knows, now guards the approaches to its own branch of the legal profession, and at the same time helps to protect the public from such members of that branch as are too enterprising to confine their professional efforts within proper legal limits. The old society (if we may use that expression for

distinction) seems to have started its records in 1739, and to have had social gatherings at the Old Devil Tavern, the Baptist's Head Tavern, the Crown and Rolls Tavern, and other places of entertainment in the neighbourhood of the Temple and Lincoln's Inn, as one of its objects; but as early as February 13th in the year mentioned it declared its intention to have general meetings twice a year, and subsidiary meetings more often, for the purpose of detecting and discountenancing "all male [mal?] and unfair practice." Thus commenced the work of purification which, by the combined efforts and powers of the Incorporated Law Society and of Her Majesty's judges, is seen actively at work at the present day. A fairly early illustrative case was that of John Sliper, who had surreptitiously obtained admission as an attorney under articles, or supposed articles, to a Mr. John Greenwood, to whom he was not clerk, but footman; another was that of William Wreathoeke and Landon Jones, who were alleged to have acted as solicitors for a highwayman in a partnership suit commenced against a brother highwayman for an equitable division of their plunder! Besides thus defending the public, the society undertook in some cases the defence of its own members. Thus, in 1748, it prevailed upon Mr. Hugh Campbell, a barrister, to erase a memorandum made in his retainer-book to the effect that no retainer or fee should be taken in future in any cause in which Mr. Nuthall, a member of the society, was concerned. It does not appear what was the reason for making the memorandum, nor is it stated whether retainers and fees from Mr. Nuthall were, in fact, accepted or not after the erasure. A more important kind of defence, commenced, apparently, in the same year, was that of preventing, with the aid of Parliament and of the judicature, the assumption and exercise of an attorney's character and functions by persons who were not really attorneys. The occasional cases of that kind which we see reported in the newspapers at the present day bear testimony to the practical value of the precautions thus originated by the old society (and continued by the Incorporated Law Society) for protecting the public from incompetent and dishonest advisers. But the grand struggle of all—the "tug" in which "Greek met Greek"—was the internecine warfare between the attorneys and the scriveners; and this demands a rather longer notice. The actual origin of the Guild of Scriveners of London is probably unrecorded, but Mr. Freshfield thinks that as early as the reign of Henry II. there were scriveners, in other words professional writers, whose business, in great part, consisted in the preparation of leases and other documents, and who may have become a guild or licensed association about the time of Henry III. Be this as it may, the body of scriveners, Mr. Freshfield tells us, received a constitution, according to the custom of the City of London, in the reign of Richard II., and were thenceforth, at least, notaries as well as scriveners. In the reign of Henry VIII., if not earlier, they habitually prepared wills and deeds, consulting counsel, if necessary, like the solicitors of modern times. Chief Justice Hobart (or Hobert, as Mr. Freshfield, following Winch's 'Reports,' writes the name) is reported to have said, in the reign of James I., that it did no more belong to an attorney to make writings than it did to an apothecary to prescribe physic. *Tempora mutantur.* Probably the attorneys entered into the practice of conveyancing (as we now call it) quietly and gradually, so as to avoid arousing the jealousy of the scriveners, for we do not find any active opposition from the rival body till a much later date, May 29th, 1749. In that year Mr. Alexander, a member of the Society of Gentlemen Practisers, informed the Committee that the Chamberlain of the City had lodged a complaint against him in the Lord Mayor's Court "in a plea of debt on demand

for 5*l.*," on the ground, he apprehended, of infringement of a by-law of the City directing that no person who was not free of the City should "use, exercise, or occupy any art, trade, mistery, manual occupation, or handicraft within the City, upon pain of forfeiting 5*l.* for every offence." This was regarded, practically, as a challenge from the Guild of Scriveners to the Society of Gentlemen Practisers, who took it up with amazing energy, directing Mr. Alexander forthwith to retain, at the Society's cost, Sir John Strange, Sir Richard Lloyd, Mr. Hume Campbell, Mr. Ford, Serjeant Skinner, Serjeant Prince, and "such of the City Counsel" as he might think proper, to advise on the case and the proper method of defence. The reader would not thank us for giving minute details of this and the many subsequent actions which were brought and defended; we may imagine that it would be argued on one side that conveyancing was, on the other that it was not, an "art, trade, mistery, manual occupation, or handicraft"; that crowds of witnesses would be called on one side and badgered within an inch of their lives by the other side; that all sorts of technical arguments, relevant and irrelevant, would be commenced, continued, and concluded; but some idea may be conveyed of the severity of the struggle by mentioning that it continued till 1760, when a jury decided, in a case between Sir Thomas Harrison, Knt., City Chamberlain for the time being, and an attorney named William Smith, that the preparation of deeds was the proper business of an attorney, and was not an act or mystery falling within the by-law. It may be observed, in the report of this case, that the spelling *mystery* had been adopted by that time; it seems rather strange that Serjeant Hewitt was made to declare himself "of council" for the plaintiff. The "council" for the defence gained a complete victory; from that time forward an attorney might draw wills and deeds, whether in or out of the City of London, without let or hindrance from the scriveners; the refinement of charging so much a folio for drawing, without, in fact, drawing at all, is no doubt the product of a later civilization. The plan followed in editing these old records is, apparently, the simple one of reproducing them verbatim from the MSS. It follows that they serve as chronicles not exactly of small beer, but certainly, among other things, of the absorption of strong beer and wine (principally the latter) by members of the Society. Under the dates of meetings are printed, in many instances, lists of the meats and liquors served at the dinner or "feast" which followed. Perhaps it might have been better to omit gastronomical details, and to limit the publication to matters of a more material—or shall we say a more intellectual and less material?—nature. The debates and resolutions are interesting and useful as showing the steps by which solicitors have become a very powerful body—a body which can actually, when it will, promote or hinder the progress of legislation—but it is neither interesting nor useful to know that so many dishes of "fowles," "chicken pye," and "hash't calves head" formed part of one dinner; or that the assembled attorneys disposed of four and a half dozens of hock, three dozens of port, "six bottles and pints Madera," and "six bottles and sherry" (*sic*), besides modest quantities of ale and punch, at another. Such information, however, we find in elaborate detail. The editor points out that dinner became a more marked feature as time went on. It was probably a happy thought that the Incorporated Law Society should be their own publishers; for the book, though certainly instructive and amusing here and there, is one which scarcely recommends itself to the general public; and it has a better chance, perhaps, of a special sale among solicitors for having its home and place of issue in the grand metropolitan temple and parliament house of their community.

Ruling Cases. Arranged, annotated, and edited by Robert Campbell, assisted by other Members of the Bar. With American Notes by Irving Browne, formerly Editor of the 'American Reports.' (Stevens & Sons; Boston, U.S.A., the Boston Book Company.)—Four more volumes of 'Ruling Cases,' bring us down to "Mandate"; vol. xiii. containing the subjects "Infant" to "Insurance"; vol. xiv. "Insurance" (continued) to "Interpretation"; vol. xv. "Judge" to "Landlord and Tenant"; vol. xvi. "Larceny Act" to "Mandate." If every subject were as weighty as "Insurance" (567 pages in one volume and 539 in the next), there would be little hope of the work being finished in the contemplated number of volumes. Even as matters now stand, we fear there may be some doubt, for one half of the alphabet remains to be dealt with, not to mention that M cannot yet have been finished, such important words as "Manor," "Mortgage," "Mortmain," and probably several others, being later than "Mandate" in alphabetical order. But it must be remembered that the latter half of the alphabet contains several unprolific letters—X, Y, and Z for instance—and further, that many cases, and perhaps some whole subjects, which might have come later, have been included in earlier titles, and will only require references to those titles hereafter. The editor evidently has no serious misgiving; for in the little preface to vol. xv. he repeats the statement made in the preface to vol. viii., that the work will almost certainly "be completed in twenty-five volumes, as originally estimated." The same preface (i.e., that to vol. xv.) tells the reader that, on the suggestion of some American readers, "brief headings of the subjects contained in the cases under each rule" are now, and will be in future, added to the table of contents. This is good, if a little late. There is nothing further to add, except that the plan of the work seems to be consistently maintained, and that the paper, type, and general "get-up" are, as usual, perfection.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MR. ARNOLD WHITE'S *The Modern Jew* directly advises restriction on alien immigration, and cannot but indirectly help the cause of persecution, though that is the very opposite of his wish. His arguments are, to our thinking, contradictory. The virtues of the best Jews are powerfully described. "The whole of the class.....are.....notoriously better citizens than the average Englishman," but "the general refusal to intermarry" is "a danger menacing to national life" which "must be abated." We do not know the foundation for the story that the Duke of Wellington hated Jews because he believed that Jewish financiers resident in England had furnished Napoleon with ordnance. He certainly thought ill of the founder of the Lopez family, the war contractor, Sir M. Lopez, whose corruption was the subject of censure; but that member of Parliament was hardly a "financier," and he did not furnish guns to the French, but provisions to the British. In his chapter "The Case for Russian Anti-Semitism" Mr. White writes of Alexander III. of Russia that he looked "upon his Hebrew subjects as the lineal descendants of the murderers of Christ," a narrow-minded sentiment of which he expresses no reprobation. But in his own name he adopts without acknowledgment Disraeli's non-Christian saying, the teaching of which is equally narrow, but quite other, that "one half of Europe worships a Jew, and the other half a Jewess." The patriotism of Hungary, according to Mr. White, "is enabling Hungary to absorb the Jewish element." Why not our own? Defending his Registration of Aliens Bill, Mr. White says that in the House of Lords in 1894 it was pointed out that such "emigration" (it

should be immigration) was "both small and decreasing." He, however, attacks the Board of Trade figures and even the Census. We are convinced that the Census of 1901 will show the Board of Trade figures to be correct, and that the Census is not erroneous. Mr. Heinemann is the publisher.

IN the volume of the "Angler's Library" called *The English Lake District Fisheries*, by John Watson (Lawrence & Bullen), a departure from the method adopted in previous ones has been made, for it is less useful as a treatise on fishing than it is as a handbook to the lakes and streams. It is, indeed, mainly an angler's guide to these waters, and it is a guide-book without a map. But when this serious defect is noticed little remains to be said save in praise; and, knowing how reticent experienced fishermen are when they have discovered good water, it is with astonishment mingled with gratitude that we follow the author from place to place, learning nearly all that can be desired. No fisherman, or even fishing tourist, who knows not the land should visit the district without the book, which will well repay study. In addition to the thirteen chapters of local information there are several on the natural history of the fishes and the improvement of fisheries, the remarks being generally judicious and the recommendations sound, though some of them show the necessity for Capt. Ormrod's caution, "It is certain that one must be very careful how one interferes with nature and disturbs the balance of animal or vegetable life." The book has twelve pleasing illustrations and there is an index.

Aurora Borealis Academica (Aberdeen, University Press) is the rather silly title of a series of thirty and odd papers on professors and others connected since 1860 with Aberdeen University. Somehow these "appreciations" suggest a juvenile mutual admiration society, though the contributors are not always juvenile, and though the admiration is sometimes conspicuously absent. It was hardly worth while, one would think, to hark up a dead man, dead for thirty-one years, and then to write thus about him:—

"I have seen something since those days of Oxford and Cambridge Dons at close quarters—something also of literary men and women—and should therefore know what vanity is. We had in Aberdeen Prof. Martin and Prof. Maclure, and it is a small thing to say that each of them had enough vanity to supply Oxford, Cambridge, Fleet Street, and Paternoster Row all put together. In fact, it is soothing and refreshing in these days where [sic] every public man is so mercilessly handled, to think of this abnormal, satisfied, impenetrable conceit. For Dr. Maclure there was but one name. He was universally and invariably spoken of as 'Cocky.'"

But ideas of taste differ; and they treat their dead strangely in Aberdeen cemeteries. A large percentage of these Northern Lights are quite unknown outside of Aberdeen, and even in Aberdeen little seems to be known of some of them. At least, the writer on John Black omits the important fact that he was born in 1834. And why on the same page does he speak of John Major as Hector Boece's successor? Major's 'History' was the earlier by six good years. Then, thirteen pages further on, comes a story which turns on Heine's having been "born in 1801." But Heine was not born then; his birthday fell on December 13th, 1797. There are a great many similar stories; one wonders if they provoke amusement in Aberdeen. The book is beautifully printed, and the illustrations are good, especially the views of King's and Marischal Colleges.

THE third volume of Mr. Stock's *History of the Church Missionary Society*, published from its Mission House in Salisbury Square, deals fully with the events of the past twenty-five years, and is likely to be of more general interest than the earlier volumes, which were noticed in our columns a few weeks ago. But detailed criticism of its contents would here be out of place. Mr. Stock, though as a rule he is fair towards those

with whom he disagrees, views everything from the "Evangelical" standpoint, and takes sides upon political as well as religious questions of the day into which we need not follow him. His whole work is a monumental record of the successes of the C.M.S. throughout its lifetime of a century. He must not be blamed for saying little of its failures.

THREE interesting publications of the American Academy of Political and Social Science reach us together from Philadelphia. They are sold here by Messrs. King & Son. One is on *The Constitutional Position of the German Emperor*, by Herr Philip Zorn, of the University of Königsberg. It is not marked by clearness. The author suggests that, the Governor "of Alsace and Lorraine" "being a Special Imperial Chancellor," the Chancellor of the Empire has less to do with this land than with Prussia, for example. The opposite is the fact, the Imperial Chancellor being the sole minister in this case, and his time being mainly occupied with Elsass.

THE paper on *The Philadelphia Nominating System*, by Dr. Walter Branson, is a careful scrutiny of the American Caucus system at its most important point.

THE paper on *The Regulation and Nationalization of the Swiss Railways*, by Dr. Hans Dietler, is an able and clear history of the events which produced the overwhelming triumph of nationalization in the great popular vote in the Referendum of 1898.

AN interesting article by Prof. E. Nys is reprinted from the *Revue de Droit International et de Législation Comparée*, and published at Brussels at the office of the review, under the title *Le Concert Européen et la Notion du Droit International*. It constitutes an attack on the European concert of the Great Powers in the name and on behalf of the weaker states.

We have received *The Psychology of the Saints*, by M. Henri Joly, with preface and notes by G. Tyrrell, S.J. (Duckworth). It is certainly interesting, but scarcely merits a long review, while it is difficult to describe it in a short one. It is a translation of a very small French volume.

WE have also on our table the fourth volume of the Abbé Feret's *Faculté de Théologie de Paris*, of which we reviewed the first three volumes. This volume shows some improvement on its predecessors, but it has reached us late, being dated 1897.

To the number of books available at sixpence Mrs. Henry Wood's *Danesbury House* has now been added (Ward, Lock & Co.). The print is superior to that usually given at the price.

THE Gresham Publishing Company have brought out an edition of Miss Edgeworth's *Ormond*, which is well printed and capably illustrated by Mr. Fred Pegram. A biographical introduction by Mr. A. H. Johnson rather overrates Miss Edgeworth's talents. Her work can hardly be said to reach "quite the front rank," and her Irish heroes and heroines suffer by contrast with the superior sparkle and gaiety of Lever's well-filled gallery of portraits.

Masterman Ready, also illustrated by Mr. Pegram, and issued by Messrs. Macmillan in their "Half-Crown Prize Library," is well suited for the purpose.

MR. A. S. WILKS'S useful volume *The Handbook to Solo Whist* (Hogg) has reached a second edition and profited by revision.

MR. HEINEMANN has reprinted *The Tenor and the Boy* episode from 'The Heavenly Twins' at a cheap price, which will doubtless secure it further admirers.

The Butterfly (Grant Richards), of which the September number is before us, has improved its cover, but not its letterpress, which is poor. The illustrations are unequal, but some of them decidedly clever.

WE have on our table *Essays on Robert Browning*, by M. Little (Sonnenschein),—*John Howard*, by the Rev. H. H. Scullard (Hazell, Watson & Viney),—*John Milton, his Life and Work*, by W. P. Trent (Macmillan),—*Studies in Foreign Literature*, by V. M. Crawford (Duckworth),—*Byron's Child Harold's Pilgrimage, Cantos I. and II.*, edited by E. E. Morris (Macmillan),—*Livy, Book II.*, edited by A. F. Hort (Rivingtons),—*Examples in Arithmetic for Schools*, by the Rev. J. B. Lock (Macmillan),—*A Manual of Essay-Writing*, by J. H. Fowler (A. & C. Black),—*Educational Aims and Educational Values*, by P. H. Hanus (Macmillan),—*Multum in Parvo; or, English and French Proverbs*, by R. Wimpfen (Brighton, E. North),—*Sextus Empiricus and Greek Scepticism*, by M. M. Patrick (Bell),—*The Book of Bander*, by the author of 'The New Koran' (Williams & Norgate),—*Defective Eyesight*, by D. B. St. John Roosa (Macmillan),—*Darwinism and Lamarckism, Old and New*, by F. W. Hutton (Duckworth),—*Curiosities of Light and Sight*, by S. Bidwell (Sonnenschein),—*Testimony of the Sonnets as to the Authorship of the Shakespearean Plays and Poems*, by J. Johnson (Putnam),—*Reminiscences of a Professional Politician*, by J. C. H. (New Century Press),—*Pons Asinorum, or Bridge for Beginners*, by A. G. Hulme-Beaman (Methuen),—*Living Pictures*, by H. V. Hopwood ('Optician and Photographic Trade Review'),—*Father Rhine*, by G. G. Coulton (Dent),—*The Social Reformer's Bible*, compiled by M. L. Hart-Davis (Simpkin),—*Chatter on Things in General*, by Maggie (Adelaide, Thomas),—*The Virgins of the Rocks*, translated from the Italian of Gabriele d'Annunzio by A. Hughes (Heinemann),—*The Mystery of Monkwood*, by Mrs. Lodge (Digby & Long),—*Heart's Desire*, by V. Wathen-Bartlett (Lane),—*Shadows*, by E. Martin (Greening),—*The Pottle Papers*, by S. Smiff (Greening),—*"Soldierin'" a Few Military Ballads*, by J. R. Denning (Bombay, 'Indian Textile Journal'),—*Other People's Wings*, by T. W. H. Crosland ('The Unicorn,' 7, Cecil Court),—*The Father, a Tragedy*, by A. Strindberg, translated by N. Erichsen (Duckworth),—*The Prometheus Bound of Æschylus*, translated by P. E. More (Gay & Bird),—*King Alfred's Dreams, and other Poems*, by F. W. Ragg (Rivingtons),—*Sketches of Southport, and other Poems*, by T. Costley (Manchester, Barber & Farnworth),—*The War for the Union*, by K. Cornwallis (New York, 'The Daily Investigator'),—*Odd Rhymes* (Ideal Publishing Union),—*Weeds and Flowers*, by W. L. Longstaff (Greening),—*Poems and Paragraphs*, by H. Aveling (Digby & Long),—*Lyrics*, by Nomad (Jarrold),—*Flowers of the Wind*, by C. Mansfield (E. Mathews),—*Poems*, by C. King (Digby & Long),—*High Aims at School, School Sermons*, by the Rev. R. A. Byrde (Stock),—*Chenna and his Friends, Hindu and Christian*, by E. Lewis (R.T.S.),—*The Bible for Home Reading*, by C. G. Montefiore, Part II. (Macmillan),—*The Message and Position of the Church of England*, by A. Galton (Kegan Paul),—*and Sentinelles, prenez garde à vous!* by M. Serao, translated by G. Hérèle (Paris, Lévy). Among New Editions we have *Plane Geometry*, by G. A. Wentworth (Gay & Bird),—*The Arithmetic of Electrical Measurements*, by W. R. P. Hobbs (Murby),—and *Chamonix and Mont Blanc*, by E. Whymper (Murray).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Rapkin's (G.) *Genesis in Harmony with Itself and Science*, cr. 8vo. 5/

Fine Art and Archaeology.

McLean's *Costumes of the Clans of Scotland*, Letterpress by J. Logan, cr. 8vo. 6/ net.

Poetry and the Drama.

Shakespeare's Works, Vol. 8, Eversley Edition, cr. 8vo. 5/

History and Biography.

Becke (L.) and Jeffery's (W.) *Admiral Phillip*, cr. 8vo. 5/

Statham's (S. P. H.) *History of the Castle, Town, and Port of Dover*, cr. 8vo. 10/6

Geography and Travel.

Wille (W. H.) and Hall Junior's (J.) *Bulawayo Up-to-Date*, cr. 8vo. 2/ net.

Philology.

Cesar: De Bello Gallico, Book 6, edited for Beginners, 1/6
Helps, Hints, and Exercises for Greek Verse Composition,
by C. E. Laurence, 12mo. 3/6
Weekley's (R.) *A Primer of Historical French Grammar*, 2/6

Science.

Abbott (A.) and Key's (A.) *Progressive Lessons in Science*, cr. 8vo. 3/6
Scharff's (R. F.) *The History of the European Fauna*, 6/

General Literature.

Benson's (R. F.) *Mammon & Co.*, cr. 8vo. 6/
Brontë's (C.) *Villette*, 2 vols., Thornton Edition, 10/ net.
Comrie's (M. S.) *Over against her House*, cr. 8vo. 3/6
Cowan's (A. R.) *The History of a Kiss*, cr. 8vo. 5/
Crockett's (S. R.) *Kilt Kennedy, Country Boy*, ex. cr. 8vo. 6/
Gunter's (A. C.) *M. S. Bradford*, Special, cr. 8vo. boards, 2/
Hawtreys (G. P.) *Caramella*, cr. 8vo. 6/
Holmes's (A. H.) *Quinford*, cr. 8vo. 6/
Lynch's (L. L.) *The Unseen Hand*, cr. 8vo. 3/6
Musgrave's (G. A.) *The Archdeacon's Daughters*, and other Stories, cr. 8vo. 3/6
New Divinity (A.) and other Stories, by Chola, cr. 8vo. 2/6
Quinn's (R.) *The Well Sinkers*, cr. 8vo. 2/6
Romance of Nun's Hollow, by Rietie, 8vo. 3/6
Seneca: On Beneficence, translated by T. Lodge, 18mo. 1/6 net.
Shadwell's (L. J.) *Key to Military Sketching made Easy*, 4to. limp. 4/ net.
Stephens's (R. N.) *A Gentleman Player*, cr. 8vo. 6/
Walkey's (S.) *For the Sake of the Duchesse*, cr. 8vo. 6/
Walton's (I.) *The Compleat Angler*, 18mo. 1/6 net.
Winter's (J. S.) *A Name to Conjure With*, cr. 8vo. 6/

FOREIGN.

History and Biography.

Kraemer (H.): *Das XIX. Jahrhundert in Wort u. Bild*, Vol. 2, 12m.
Mandouret (P.) *Siger de Brabant et l'Averroisme Latin au XIIIe Siècle*, 8m.
Welter (N.): *Frederi Mistral, der Dichter der Provence*, 4m.

Philology.

Anton (H. S.): *Die Mythen u. Kulte*, 3m.
Kroner (H.): *Maimonides' Commentar zum Tractat Bezah*, 2m.

Science.

Lassar-Cohn (Dr.): *Einführung in die Chemie in leichtfasslicher Form*, 4m.

General Literature.

Lassalle (F.): *Gesamtwerke: Vol. 2, Politische Reden u. Schriften*, 3m.
Procès (Le) de 'La Patrie Française', 2fr.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AT MANCHESTER.

I.

THE Library Association has not met at Manchester since 1879, when the late Rev. H. O. Cox, of the Bodleian, was President. On the present occasion, as before, the invitation came from the municipal authorities, and there was a large attendance of fellows and members.

The proceedings of this, the twenty-second annual meeting, commenced in the large room of the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 5th, with a vote of thanks to the retiring President (the Earl of Crawford), moved by Dr. Garnett, and seconded by Mr. H. R. Tedder, both past Presidents. The new President (Mr. Alderman J. W. Southern, chairman of the Manchester Public Libraries Committee) then delivered his inaugural address. He said that he proposed to speak chiefly of the work of municipal libraries, and thought if one place more than another invited a retrospect, it was the city of Manchester, where the first library under the Act was established, where the system of municipal free libraries had been most largely developed, and where probably a greater number of volumes were issued each year than in any other city at home or abroad. The country owed much to those far-sighted men, foremost among whom stood Edward Edwards and William Ewart, who towards the middle of the century directed attention to the advantages which must flow from the establishment of municipal libraries free and open to all. Many of the letters received by Edwards at the time he was collecting evidence to place before a Parliamentary Committee were now in the Manchester Free Library. Perhaps the most important among them was one addressed to Edwards by Ewart, dated January 30th, 1850, in which he said, "I heartily congratulate you and rejoice in your success. Make the most of Manchester, it is a rising place. I must say that you and I have great reason to rejoice at the result of our exertions. Have we not planted for posterity?" This assurance ran

through many of the letters, and was the keynote of the speeches on the memorable day when the Campfield Library was opened. The occasion was historic, for among the speakers were Dickens and Thackeray, Bulwer Lytton and John Bright. It is from 1850 that we must trace the history of municipal free libraries. During the next twenty years the progress was not rapid. In 1870 fifty-two libraries had been established. In that year an event of the highest importance in relation to free libraries occurred in the passing of Forster's Elementary Education Act, for this Act and the Free Libraries Act were different manifestations of the same great moral and progressive force. A second event of great importance to the library movement was the Conference of Librarians in London in 1877, resulting as it did in the foundation of the Library Association. From that date onwards the development of the free library movement had been remarkable. The schools of the country have produced larger and yet larger numbers of men and women who have sought in our free libraries an amplification of that instruction which began in the elementary schools. At the present time no fewer than 375 towns in the United Kingdom have provided free libraries for their citizens. Some of the British colonies possessed important public libraries before the passing of Ewart's Act. The South African Public Library at the Cape of Good Hope was established in 1818, and now there was scarcely a town at the Cape without its public library. In Australia many public libraries had been established, and those of Melbourne and Sydney compared favourably with any in European capitals. In Canada the movement for free libraries had not perhaps been so notable. They numbered in the Dominion in 1894 only eighteen, but to these must be added a large number of excellent libraries belonging to learned societies, colleges, and universities. The President concluded with a reference to the magnificent addition which was shortly to be made to the literary treasures of Manchester. The John Rylands Library, in which was incorporated the celebrated Althorp Collection, would in itself make the city which possessed it a place of pilgrimage for the lovers of rare books.

The President then called upon Mr. J. J. Ogle (Bootle) to read a paper on 'Edwards and Ewart and the Select Committee on Public Libraries of 1849,' which contained selections from unpublished letters of Ewart to Edwards, showing the part taken by each of them in originating the public library movement. The Rev. W. E. Winks explained 'An Attempt to solve the School Libraries Problem' in the Cardiff Public Library. 'The De Quincey Collection in the Moss Side Public Library' was described by Mr. W. E. A. Axon. That collection was the only memorial of the Opium-Eater in his native district. Mr. C. W. Sutton (Manchester) presented a survey of the 'Special Collections of Books in Lancashire and Cheshire,' including those in private as well as public libraries. 'Salford and the Inauguration of the Public Free Libraries Movement' was a contribution to the history of the initial stages of the question, by Mr. B. H. Mullen (Salford). Mr. Alfred Lancaster (St. Helens) dealt with 'The Provision of Technical Books in Public Libraries from the Technical Education Fund,' and Mr. J. E. Phythian with the subject of 'Librarian and Reader,' and the duties of the former as a guide to reading. Mr. J. R. Boosé (Royal Colonial Institute) pointed out in a paper on 'The Colonies in relation to Public Libraries' how the public librarian could assist in spreading information regarding the history, geography, trade, and resources of the British colonies; and Mr. E. M. Borrajo (Guildhall Library), in 'Books for the Reference Library,' showed the need for expert advice in the selection of scientific books. 'The History of the Free Library Movement in

Manchester' was elaborately traced by Mr. W. R. Credland (Manchester). In the evening a conversation was given by the Corporation of Salford at the Museum and Library, Peel Park. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester had welcomed the Association at a reception in the Manchester Town Hall on the previous evening.

On Wednesday morning Sir W. H. Bailey (Salford) advocated the establishment of ward club-rooms, or reading-rooms in each ward of a town. Mr. W. E. Hoyle and Miss Clara Nördlinger (Owens College), in 'The Concilium Bibliographicum at Zürich and its Work,' gave an account of the card catalogue of current zoological literature issued under the direction of Dr. Field. 'Village Libraries and County Councils' were discussed by Mr. W. R. Credland; and Mr. T. W. Lyster (National Library of Ireland) presented 'Some Observations on the Theory and Practice of Shelf-Classification,' in which he warmly recommended minute classification of books on the shelves. 'The Philosophical Classification of Literature as compared with Practical Schemes of Classification' was considered by Mr. A. Clarke (Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London). Visits were afterwards paid to the Manchester Ship Canal and Trafford Hall, and in the evening a smoking concert was arranged by the Manchester Literary Club. The meeting was continued on Thursday and Friday.

THE COMING PUBLISHING SEASON.

MESSRS. DOWNEY & Co.'s forthcoming books include:—*'Medicine and Mind,'* by Maurice Fleury;—*'Legends of the Bastille,'* from the French of F. Funck-Brentano;—*'Old London Taverns,'* by Edward Callow;—*'The Actor and Art,'* by S. Jones;—*'Queer-side Stories' and 'Here they are Again!'* a new book of fairy tales by J. F. Sullivan;—*'The Bashful Earthquake,'* humorous verse, by O. Herford;—*'Baby Wilkinson's V.C.,'* by Lieut.-Col. Newnham-Davis;—*'The Parson and the Fool,'* by W. Woollam;—and several new editions of well-known novels.

Messrs. Luzac & Co. promise in their 'Semitic Text and Translation Series' Vol. III., 'The Letters and Inscriptions of Hammurabi, King of Babylon, about B.C. 220,' with a series of letters of other kings of the First Dynasty of Babylon, by L. W. King, transliteration and translations of the texts given in Vol. I., and copies of six additional letters of Hammurabi, three of Samsu-iluna, and twelve despatches of Esheshu, &c.; Vols. IV. and V., 'The History of the Blessed Virgin Mary,' and 'The History of the Likeness of Christ which the Jews of Tiberias made to mock at in the Days of the Emperor Zeno,' edited by Dr. E. A. Wallis Budge; Vol. VI., 'Reports of the Magicians and Astrologers of Nineveh and Babylon in the British Museum,' the original texts in the cuneiform characters, edited by R. C. Thompson;—*'A History of Ottoman Turkish Poetry,'* by E. J. W. Gibb, Vol. I.;—*'Notes and Commentaries on Chinese Criminal Law,'* with an excursus on the law of property, trusts, and inheritance, based upon the writings of Sir Chaloner Alabaster, by Ernest Alabaster;—*'Dawlatshah's 'Lives of the Persian Poets,'* Vol. I. 'Tadhkiratu'sh-Shu'ara,' edited by E. G. Browne;—*'The Arabic Press of Egypt,'* by Martin Hartmann;—*'Contributions towards Arabic Philology: I. The Kitāb al-makṣūr wa'l-mamdūd,'* a lexicographical treatise by Ibn Wallad, edited by Dr. Paul Brönnle;—*'The Part borne by the Dutch in the Discovery of Australia, 1606-1765,'* by Prof. J. E. Heeres;—and *'Sacred Books of the Old Testament,'* a critical edition of the Hebrew text, *édition de Luzac*, edited by Paul Haupt: new part, 'Isaiah.'

BIFRONS AND JUNIUS.

I PRESUME that it has been pointed out in the columns of the *Athenæum* that the autobiography of the third Duke of Grafton, edited by Sir W. R. Anson, which was brought out last year by Mr. John Murray, contains no allusion or notice whatever of the 'Letters of Junius' by the Duke of Grafton himself. But there is one curious coincidence. We read in the text of the autobiography that "I set off in June, 1761, for the benefit of a change of climate. We received particular civilities during our short stay in Paris. At the old and respectable Duke of Biron's I dined with a numerous set of officers," &c. (*ibid.*, pp. 15-16). And just above the last excerpt the Duke of Grafton mentions that Mr. Hans Stanley "favoured me with a sight of the note from the French minister, and of his intended answer." These negotiations lasted from June to September, 1761. It is therefore certain that the Duke of Grafton was in Paris in August, 1761, when the books of the Jesuits were burnt, an incident which Junius in Miscellaneous Letter No. 21, *sub nom.* Bifrons, declared that he remembered seeing. This is a point of great interest to establish, because no Englishman could have been in Paris in August, 1761, when war was raging between the two countries, unless he was attached to Hans Stanley's suite, or had procured a passport like the Duke of Grafton. Mr. Lecky argues that Francis may have been in Paris in August, 1761, because there are no despatches in his hand from the end of July to August 20th traceable. It is certain that the letters from Hans Stanley to Pitt, giving a detailed account of the burning of the books of the Jesuits, passed through Francis's hands. But Junius throws out, in the letter referred to, unmistakable hints, not only that he witnessed the incident, but that he knew that the Duke of Grafton witnessed it also. Thus Bifrons suggests that perhaps the books of the Jesuits found their way to the library of the Duke of Grafton, "where they probably stand with the chapter of promises dog-eared down for the perusal of unscrupulous statesmen." Again, it is impossible not to see an instance of paronomasia, or more prosaically, an attempt at a pun, between the choice of the *nom de guerre* Bifrons and the Duke of Biron's name, a suggestion rendered obvious by Junius, after satirizing Grafton, concluding his letter with a quotation from Molière: "C'est l'Amphitruon chez qui l'on dîne." These words, written directly over the signature "Bifrons," raise the inference that there was some connexion between the Duke of Grafton's residence in Paris at a certain date and a convivial event, and the signature seems to enforce the suggestion by way of assonance, paronomasia, or *mot à double entente*, or more plainly, by a pun, the meaning of which lies in the resemblance between the word Bifrons and Biron. Samuel Johnson once observed that almost all Lord Chesterfield's witty sayings were puns. If Chesterfield is responsible for this remarkably witty pun he is Junius. Can any of your readers inform me if Lord Chesterfield was in Paris in August, 1761? The Duke of Grafton, in the autobiography, does not exhibit the slightest acquaintance with Lord Chesterfield, who is no more mentioned than Junius. I have no doubt that it has been pointed out in your columns that in Grafton's autobiography there is a letter from Junius's "truly honest Mr. Bradshaw" to the Duke of Grafton, in which the secretary says: "I have ordered Mr. Francis to secure evidence of the publication in the usual manner," the said publication being a letter of Junius signed "Fiat Justitia," for which Bradshaw asks Grafton's leave to direct the Attorney-General to prosecute the printer. If Francis was Junius, no wonder that De Grey, who was Attorney-General at this date, had to declare solemnly in Parlia-

ment some eighteen months afterwards that he had hardly been able to bring a single offender to justice. "Set a thief to catch a thief" may be an aphorism of perennial wisdom, but is clearly subject to the exception that the thief specially retained must not be the same as the one you are trying to catch. But what are the probabilities that a Government clerk, instructed to secure evidence of the fact of publication of a seditious libel, is the very person who wrote it? This last signal addition to our learning on the Junian question renders more than ever apposite the conclusions of that minutest critic of the subject, the late Mr. C. W. Dilke:—

"We cannot receive and believe what is so strangely improbable simply because it was possible. If proof be ever offered, then, all circumstances considered, Francis must take rank amongst those rare phenomena of which the world has few examples, and in this instance no previous example."

N. W. SIBLEY.

"LOLLARDRY" OR "LOLLARDY"?

West View, Pinner, September 2, 1899.

MR. HAMILTON WYLIE raises an interesting question in reference to the accuracy of Mr. Trevelyan's map to illustrate the prevalence of Lollard opinions in England. This question I do not propose to touch; but I wish to raise another, as to the word which both these historians have accepted as a designation for Lollard views and tendencies. Is the word "Lollardry" contemporary? "Lollardy" undoubtedly is, for Gower (according to the 'Promptorium,' p. 312, note) speaks of "this newe Secte of Lollardye," and there are other instances. But I am not sure about "Lollardry." This form does, indeed, occur (with a final *e*) in the poem "Lo, he that can be Cristes clerc," as printed by Wright ('Political Poems,' ii. 243), but in the first verse only, and one might suspect a clerical error in the MS., as in all the other eighteen verses it is invariably "lollardie." Yet Mr. Trevelyan quotes one verse of this poem at p. 336 of his book, and inserts the *r*, which is not in the original, in his modern spelling. I think this is a pity, and unless we have better evidence that "Lollardry" was a current form in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, I would recommend that it be dropped by modern writers.

JAMES GAIRDNER.

JEFFERSON PAPERS RECENTLY FOUND AT WASHINGTON.

ON opening this box of Jefferson papers the first thing that caught my eye was a large seal whose sole device is a crown. It is attached to Lord Botetourt's commission to Jefferson as Lieutenant of Albemarle county, and Chief Commander of His Majesty's militia, &c., dated June 10th, 1770. Next to this is an identical commission, of September 26th, 1775, from "The Committee of Safety from the Colony of Virginia." Although this transfer of allegiance looks like a personal declaration of independence, Jefferson had shortly before (August 25th, 1775) written a letter to his intimate friend John Randolph, King's Attorney in Virginia, expressing his warm hope of reconciliation between the colonies and England. Randolph, though attached to his native Virginia, regarded his oath of office as sacred, and had left the capital (Williamsburg) for an English ship. Before it sailed, apparently, Jefferson's letter had reached him, and solicited his correspondence:—

"You may be at liberty, I expect, to communicate some things, consistently with your honor, and the duties you owe to a protecting nation. Such a communication among individuals may be mutually beneficial to the contending parties."

The letter of Jefferson has been printed; but John Randolph's answer (found in this box) is new to me:—

DR. SR.—I have received ten guineas of the Treasurer and have left the Violin with Mr. Cocke of Wmsburg. I wish I had had a case for it.

Tho' we may politically differ in sentiments, yet I see no reason why *privately* we may not cherish the same esteem for each other which formerly, I believe, subsisted between us. Should any coolness happen between us, I'll take care not to be the first mover of it. We both of us seem to be steering opposite courses; the success of either lies in the Womb of Time. But whether it falls to my share or not, be assured that I wish you all health and happiness.—I am, Dr. Sr., your most obed't servant,
JOHN RANDOLPH.

The communication from England requested by Jefferson apparently never came, and indeed the note here printed seems to be the only one preserved from the pen of the accomplished lawyer and loyalist, who lived in poverty in England, where he died in 1784. His brother (Peyton Randolph) became first President of the Continental Congress, and his (John's) son Edmund first Attorney-General of the United States.

John Randolph (King's Attorney) and Jefferson were drawn together by their deistic views and their fondness for the violin. The violin alluded to in the above letter was no doubt one which Randolph purchased in London while studying law there. There was a written contract between the two, that if Randolph survived Jefferson he was to have 800l. worth of books from Jefferson's library; while if Jefferson survived him he was to have "the violin which the said John brought with him into Virginia, together with all his music composed for the violin." It appears that on leaving Virginia he sold the violin to Jefferson for ten guineas.

A letter from Lafayette is undated, but is shown by a note of Jefferson's to have been written in the summer of 1789; it is in Lafayette's handwriting, and his English is followed literally in the subjoined copy:—

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I Beg for liberty's sake You will Break every engagement to give us a dinner tomorrow Wednesday—we shall be some Members of the National Assembly—eight of us whom I want to Conlise as Being the only means to prevent a total dissolution and a civil war—the difficulty between them is the King's Veto—some want it Absolute, others will have no Veto—and the only way to Unite them is to find some means for a suspensive Veto so strong as so Complicated as to give the King a due influence—if they dont agree in a few days, we shall have no great majority in a favour of Any plan, and it must end in a war Because the discontented party will unite either with Aristocratic, or factious people—those gentlemen wish to consult you and me—they will dine to-morrow at your house as mine is always full—I depend on you to receive us—perhaps will they be late But I shall be precisely as there with you and I think this dinner of an immediate and great importance.—Adieu, my dear friend,
L.f.

Jefferson has alluded to this dinner and the embarrassment it caused him in his brief paper on the French Revolution (Ford's edition of Jefferson's 'Writings,' vol. i. p. 145). He gives the names of those present as Lafayette, Dupont, Barnave, Alex. La Meth, Blacon, Mounier, Maubourg, Dagout. Jefferson says he was a "silent witness" of much eloquence, that they agreed to the "suspensive veto," and an elective legislature of but one chamber. Next day he told Montmorin of what had happened in his house, by compulsion, and the minister said he knew all that had passed, and hoped there would be other such conferences, in order that his (Jefferson's) moderating influence might be felt. This was not meant as irony, but Jefferson concluded that Montmorin had originated the whole affair. Jefferson left France for America in September, 1789. Lafayette's consultations then went on with Thomas Paine, who practically represented the United States in Paris until Gouverneur Morris's appointment. Even after that Paine was a good deal consulted, much to the disgust of the American minister. I found in the newly discovered box a letter of Paine, "Paris, Oct. 10th, 1793," to Jefferson (unpublished), which was not received until

March 31st, 1794, when Jefferson had been out of the cabinet three months:—

MY DEAR SIR,—As far as my Judgment extends I think you cannot do better than send Commissioners to Europe; and so far as the freedom of commerce may become a subject of conference it ought to be done. It may be a means of terminating the war, for it is necessary that some power should begin. England is in a wretched condition as to her Manufactures and her public and private credit. The combined Armies make no progress. My opinion is that they cannot agree among themselves, and that the object of the English Government is to get possession of both sides the channel, which certainly cannot be consented to by the Northern powers. It is not the English alone that have possession of Toulon; the Spaniards have landed more troops than the English, as if to keep an Eye upon them. Holland does nothing. She must wish to be out of the War. If you send Commissioners, Holland will be the best place for them to arrive at—they can there make known their Credentials to all the resident Ministers. It will not do to appoint Gou[verneur] Morris upon that business. His appointment here has been unfortunate. He has done more harm than good. All the Americans will give you the same account. I wish much to be in America, were it only to press the sending Commissioners. I think it is a plan in which all parties among you will unite. Were you to appoint two or three Com'srs. from America and direct them to call Mr. Pinckney [American Minister in London] to their Councils, I think it would have a good effect.

I suppose you know the person that wrote the enclosed American letter. The contents shew there are many subjects for conference that do not appear at first sight. It either has or will be published in London in a few days. Remember me to the President and all my friends.

Yours affectionately,
THOMAS PAINE.

The letter referred to at the close is an anonymous pamphlet written by Paine, entitled 'A Citizen of America to the Citizens of Europe.'

It is a picturesque retrospect from the recent Peace Congress at the Hague to see Paine urging Washington to take the initiative in a practical conference for the peace of Europe to be held in Holland.

Here is a remarkable anecdote in Jefferson's handwriting, dated May 10th, 1797:—

"The reason Genl. Washington assigned to me for having called such a body of militia to the siege of Yorktown was, that by doubling with our own forces the numbers of our French auxiliaries, the honor might more indisputably result to us."

Several French envoys to the United States wrote to their Government that the President (Washington) could not forgive France for her share in the glory of winning American independence, and this note of Jefferson's lends some colour to those suspicions.

Dugald Stewart, under date of "Edinburgh, 1 March, 1795," writes to Jefferson:—

DEAR SIR,—The Gentleman who will have the honor of presenting this letter to you (Mr. John Millar) has been long a particular friend of mine, and I can with great confidence recommend him to your acquaintance, as a man of worth, learning and talents. I shall leave to himself the detail of the circumstances which have suggested to him the plan of settling in America, and shall content myself with assuring you in general that they are such as could not fail to add to your estimation of his character. I need not inform you that *our* modes of thinking on political subjects are not altogether the same with *yours*.

Mr. Millar was bred to the law, under the particular inspection of his Father, Professor Millar of Glasgow, with whose excellent works 'On the Distinction of Ranks' and on 'The English Constitution' I presume you are acquainted. Should an opening occur in any of your Literary establishments, I am persuaded you would find him a valuable acquisition as a Professor; and the variety of his attainments leave him a considerable latitude in his choice of a situation. I should suppose that General Jurisprudence or some of the branches more immediately connected with it would be most agreeable to his wishes; but as he has received a very liberal Education, there are few branches of Academical Instruction which he could not undertake with a fair prospect of success.

Altho Mr. Millar has been strongly recommended to Mr. Jay by Lord Landsdowne and others, I could not think of his setting out for America, without availing myself of the Honour of your Acquaint-

ance, in expressing my warmest wishes to you for his comfortable establishment. Allow me likewise to recommend to your civilities Mrs. Millar, who is a Daughter of our late celebrated Professor of Medicine Dr. Cullen, and who inherits a large portion of her Father's Genius.

I felt myself highly flattered in being associated with the very distinguished Names in the American Philosophical Society, and beg to return you my grateful acknowledgements for an honour to which I could have no claim but thro' your Recommendation.

I am Dear Sir your most obed't and faithful servant,
DUGALD STEWART.

A letter from Dr. Priestley ("Northumberland [Pa.] Jan. 30, 1800") to Jefferson shows that the latter was already occupied with plans for the University of Virginia, which came into existence nineteen years later. (The main part of this university, by the way, was burnt a few years ago, and the architect employed to rebuild it found that the original plan had never been fully carried out; the central edifice and rotunda, as now completed, for the first time fulfil the design which Jefferson adopted.) Priestley writes:—

DEAR SIR,—I am flattered by your thinking so favourably of my pamphlet, which were only calculated to give some satisfaction to my suspicious neighbours. Chancellor Livingston informs me that he has got an edition of them printed at Albany, for the information of the people, in the back country, where, he says, it is much wanted. Indeed it seems extraordinary, that in such a country as this, where there is no Court to dazzle mens eyes, a maxim as plain as that 2 and 2 make 4 should not be understood, and acted upon. It is evident that the bulk of mankind are governed by something very different from reasoning and argument. This principle must have its influence even in your Congress. For if the members are not convinced by the excellent speeches of Mr. Gallatin and [Mr.] Nicolas, neither would they be persuaded tho: one should rise from the dead.

It is true that I had more to do with colleges, and places of education, than most men in Europe; but I would not pretend to advise in this country. I will, however, at my leisure, prepare such *hints* as shall occur to me; and if you want Tutors from England, I can recommend some very good ones. Were I a few years younger and more moveable, I should make interest for some appointment in your institution myself; but age and inactivity are fast approaching, and I am so fixed here, that a remove is absolutely impossible, unless you were possessed of *Aladin's lamp*, and could transport my house, library, and laboratory into Virginia without trouble or expence.

On my settlement here the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, thinking to make me of some use, set on foot a college, of which I gave them the plan, and they got it incorporated, and made me the president, but tho. I proposed to give lectures *gratis* and had the disposal of a valuable library at the decease of a learned friend now near 80, and had it in my power to render them essential service in various ways, yet, owing I suspect, in part at least, to religious and political prejudices, nothing more has been done, besides raising the shell of a building these five years, so that I have told them I shall resign.

I much wish to have some conversation with you on several subjects; but I cannot expect that the Vice-President of the United States should visit me in my *shed* at Northumberland, and I cannot come to you. I intended on my settling here to have spent a month or so every winter at Philadelphia, but the state of the times, and various accidents, have a little deranged my finances, and I prefer to expend what I can spare on my experiments and publications, rather than in travelling and seeing my friends.

With the greatest respect I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,
J. PRIESTLEY.

It may have been that Jefferson's idea of a university for Virginia was suggested by General Washington's bequest for a university at Washington—a bequest of stock presented to him by Virginia, but which he declined to accept for his personal use. The stock proved worthless. This abortive scheme drew from Joel Barlow, author of 'The Columbiad,' the following letter, dated at Paris, September 15th, 1801:—

DEAR SIR,—I see by the testament of General Washington that he contemplated the establishment of a national university at the federal city, as he seems to have left some thing for the endowment of such an institution. Would it not be

possible to take advantage of the veneration which the people have for the memory and the opinions of that man to carry into execution a project of this sort? If so, could you not make of it an institution of much more extensive and various utility than any thing of the kind that has hitherto existed? In all our colleges and universities with which I am acquainted there are so many useless things taught and so many useful ones omitted, that it is difficult to say whether on the whole they are beneficial or detrimental to society. I mean to apply this observation only to those at the northward, with which I have some acquaintance; but do not pretend to know how far it may be applicable to those in your state and neighbourhood. If these are all more or less defective in their plans it is essential that we should embrace the present opportunity, when something new is to be attempted, to establish it on principles analogous to the object we have in view, the general amelioration of Society.

The present state of Knowledge presents us with little more than a confused idea of the immense void of the unknown that lies before us; and we lose the principal advantages of the little that is known for want of proper methods of teaching it to our children. It appears to me that an Institution which might properly be called national should embrace four principal objects: 1. To extend the limits of general science; 2. To investigate the native resources of our own country, and utilize its industry; 3. To teach the method of teaching, or to point out what ought to be taught and the best method of doing it; 4. To aid the establishment or improvement of other Schools similar to the great Central School, to furnish them professors where it can be done conveniently, to bear a part of the burthen of their Salaries, &c., to cultivate a strict adherence to republican principles, and endeavour to encourage as great a uniformity as may be in the manners, language and sentiments of the people. This last article would be of great utility to the United States, considering the extent of their limits, the variety of their pursuits, and how much their happiness depends on their political Union.

It seems proper that the two fold object of collecting and disseminating knowledge should be wrought into one system, the Institution to be called the Polysophic Society or by some such comprehensive name which should designate the variety of its pursuits. Its members to be chosen for their eminence in the sciences, arts, trades and literature, after the manner of the learned Academies in Europe. These to be divided into about five or six classes according to their pursuits. Each class to furnish one or more professors and demonstrators, who being united in one body will constitute the officiating branch of the Institution and be employed in teaching. The President of the Polysophic Society should be president of the professorate or officiating branch, the members of which should receive salaries and give their whole attention to the duties of their office.

A considerable fund would be necessary to begin this Establishment on such a footing as to promise a permanent success,—to furnish the buildings, gardens, collections of natural history and mineralogy, laboratories, books, mechanical and philosophical apparatus, implements of husbandry and of the arts and trades. Some professors should likewise be employed in travelling for discovering and collecting the objects of improvement; and others if possible should be salaried by the Society to profess in distant towns and colleges where their labours might be advantageously united with those of the few persons already employed there.

Should you be of opinion that any thing of this kind could be attempted with success at or near the seat of Government in America I would make it a point to obtain and communicate to you the state of the new Institutions in France that may have come into being since you left this Country. Some of them are highly worthy of imitation, and most of them are altogether preferable to the old establishments of a similar nature with which I am acquainted. Indeed I regard the improvements in public instruction as one of the most solid advantages of the revolution and one that no reverse in fortune in the Republic will hardly be able to overturn.

Ornamental literature is doubtless at a stand; and the fine arts are making no progress. This is scarcely to be regretted, when we see that all the physical sciences and all the useful arts are making more rapid strides than ever they have done before.

A countryman of ours, Robert Fulton of Philadelphia, has invented a new mode of submarine navigation, which he is bringing to perfection. He hopes very soon to demonstrate the practicability of destroying military navies altogether, and with them the whole system of naval tyranny and civilized piracy, which seems worse than the barbarian, as it works its mischief on a larger scale and really threatens the existence of Society. Should

he thus succeed in setting Commerce free, and in providing this cheap method of securing its freedom, he will merit well of his country and of mankind.

I have the honour to be with great respect, dear Sir, your obed't serv't,
JOEL BARLOW.

Joel Barlow, a Connecticut preacher, who became a chaplain in the American Revolution, afterwards became a speculator in Paris, and acquired wealth in rather doubtful ways. His career was in notable contrast with the more famous chaplain of Virginia, the Rev. Abner Waugh, who fanned the revolutionary fire in his state by patriotic eloquence. A letter here ("Fredericksburg, Va., July 14, 1806") from Waugh appeals to Jefferson for pecuniary assistance in his sickness and poverty.

There are two letters from the Rev. Mason L. Weems, the earliest biographer of Washington, now mainly memorable as the inventor of the cherry-tree story which has become a world-wide fable. The cherry-tree story did not appear in the earlier editions of Weems's work, but was in that which accompanied the following characteristic letter to Jefferson:—

Navy Yard—Doctr. Ewells [Washington] Feby. 1, 1809.

SIR,—The Multitude adore the rising sun.—for me, I honor the steps of his departure. my thoughts return with pleasure to the fields that were bright with his beams where the Olive gladden'd in her labours and the Vine shook her green leaf with Joy to the falling ray that filled her clusters with nectar. Self descending your Excellency sets in glory—and soon to rise in multiplied radiance on all the political stars that are to shine by your absence.

I beg your Excellency's acceptance of a copy of a New Work—The Private Life of the man whom you, of all others, most rever'd; and whom with such peculiar felicity you styled "Columbia's First and Greatest Son."

This is the Seventh edition—10,000 copies have been sold—and some flattering things said—

But if, on perusing this private Life of Washington your Excellency should be pleas'd to find that I have not, like some of his Eulogists, set him up as a Common Hero for military ambition to idolize and imitate—nor an Aristocrat, like others, to mislead and enslave the nation,—but a pure Republican whom all our Youth should know, that they may love and imitate his Virtues, and thereby immortalize "the last Republic now on earth"—I shall heartily thank you for a line or two in favor of it as a School Book. That from the top of your own heaven-kissing hill you may long look around with a Parents Joy on the continuing Peace, Prosperity, and Universal blessings of America, is the sincerest wish of your Excellency's greatly obliged and most aff. friend
M. L. WEEMS.

The next letter which I select is also characteristic, especially in being addressed "President Jefferson" (fourteen years after Jefferson's presidency). It is from ex-President John Adams, once the great anti-Jeffersonian:—

Quincy [Mass.] February 10th, 1823.

DEAR SIR,—Your Virginia Ladies have always been represented to me, and I have always believed it, as among the most beautiful, virtuous, and accomplished of their sex. One of them has given me a most luxurious entertainment in a narration of her visit to your Domicile. Her description of the Mountain, the Palace, the Gardens, the Vast Prospect, The Lofly Mountains at a distance. The capacious Valley between them. The views of Fog and Vapours appearing in the Morning, Their dissipation with the rising sun, and everything else, are painted in colours so distinct and lively, that I seem to have as clear an idea of the whole scene, as if I had led her by the hand, in all her rambles. Her account of the Hospitality of the Family, almost gave me a jealous, and envious fit, as Swift says Pope's Couplet gave him. But now to the point, This Lady says she saw in your sanctum, sanctorum, a large folio volume, on which was written libels, On opening which, she found it was a Magazine of slips of newspapers, and pamphlets, vilifying, calumniating and defaming you. I started as from a trance, exclaiming, what a dunce have I been all my days. And what lubbers my children, and grandchildren, were, that none of us have ever thought to make a similar collection. If we had I am confident I could have produced a more splendid mass than yours, I could have enumerated Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Paine. The two most extraordinary men, that this Country, this age or this World, ever produced. "Ridendo dicere verum quid vetat?"

I most sincerely congratulate you on the recovery of your hand, and am your friend for this, and I hope, and believe, for all future Worlds.

J. ADAMS.

I add one more letter found among these papers; it is from Jared Sparks, the patriarch of American historiography:—

Richmond, May 13th, 1836.

DEAR SIR,—Your kind favor of the 8th ulto. reached me in Raleigh, and I write to thank you for the willingness you express to promote my project of a history of the Revolution. As my tour has already been much longer in duration than I expected, and as pressing duties at home demand my speedy return, I am compelled for the present to deny myself the pleasure of the visit to Monticello, which I contemplated.

I have examined all the records in the public archives of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. In some cases these are imperfect, particularly at that deranged period of the commencement of the Revolution; but I have on the whole met with good success in collecting important manuscript documents. I have at least made myself certain, that I have had access to everything of this nature, which can be of historical value. I shall do the same in all the Old States, and as far as possible collect whatever was printed during the period in question. From individuals I shall obtain such papers as I can. The Library of Harvard College, embracing Ebelings and Warden's Collections, is uncommonly rich in American history. To this I shall have constant access. I shall also examine thoroughly the Library of Congress, as well as the papers in the several offices at Washington. When all this shall be done, I shall have the whole ground fairly open before me.

Yesterday I passed in the Council Chamber here reading the letters of the Executive. Your letters in 1781 give a much more full and minute account of the state of events in Virginia at that time, than can be collected from all the histories that have been written. Such letters, and parts of letters, as are of a general nature, I have marked to be copied; as also those of Lafayette and Steuben written to the Executive. They have all been well arranged by the present clerk of the Council.

At Columbia I saw Dr. Cooper. He is somewhat recovered from his late illness, but not entirely restored. He rides and walks a good deal, attends to his College duties, and is gaining strength and activity. The College is in a flourishing condition. It is fortunately in high favor with the state, owing in some degree to the circumstance that many of the members of the legislature have been graduates of the College, and carry with them into public life a kindly feeling towards the institution at which they were educated. This is a good foundation of a continued and solid patronage.

With sentiments of high respect, and sincere regards, I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obed't serv't,
JARED SPARKS.

There are in the box some letters from Dr. Cooper, but their interest would depend on biographical notes too extended to be given here.
MONCURE D. CONWAY.

'KING ROBERT THE BRUCE.'

The Athenæum, August 30, 1899.

YOUR reviewer of my 'King Robert the Bruce' ("Famous Scots Series") illustrates a somewhat wide charge of inaccuracy against me by a single fact—the fact that I place the capture of Roxburgh and Edinburgh castles in 1313-14. "It should surely be a year earlier" is all his easygoing comment. It would be an absurd waste of your space to set forth the documentary evidence, which is absolutely clear against your reviewer. Mr. Joseph Bain—who, I take it, is the foremost living expert on the period—says expressly that Roxburgh was taken, "not in February, 1312/3, but a year later, in capite jejunii [February 28th], 1313/4" ('Calendar,' vol. iii., introduction, p. xix). If your reviewer had done me the honour to follow my argument, he would have seen, I think, that even if the year had not been specifically determined by the original authorities, the necessary inference must still have been in favour of 1313-14. A. F. MURISON.

. Fordun ('Historians of Scotland,' series i. 346) says: "Castrum de Roxburgh nocte Carnis privii, anno Domini mcccxxiii. feliciter capitur." Cf. also the 'Liber Pluscardensis' (same series, i. 237). If Mr. Bain is right in

saying that Roxburgh Castle was taken on February 28th, then it must really have been in 1313, when Fasten's E'en or Shrove Tuesday fell upon that day. Probably, however, the correct date is February 20th, 1314. But what the reviewer chiefly found fault with was the omission of dates.

PROF. PETERSON.

THE news from India by telegram of the death of Prof. Peter Peterson, who held for nearly twenty-five years the Chair of Sanskrit in Elphinstone College, Bombay, will come as a shock to his friends and fellow-labourers in Europe. A correspondent who saw him in Bombay last December found him apparently in good health and spirits, and entering with as much enthusiasm as ever into his favourite studies. Peterson's chief and characteristic work was the exploration of libraries and search for Sanskrit MSS. His four reports on this subject are a model of what such work should be. In them one finds the true scientific instinct for selecting in vast masses of material what is both new and worth recording. The reports have also in many parts real literary charm, for Peterson had the hand of the practised journalist. Many of the best articles in one of the Bombay English papers came from his facile pen. His obituary notice of Bhagvan Lal Indraj, in the *Academy* of April 14th, 1888, is an excellent example of his skill in such matters.

Amongst his most important literary works were his editions of the 'Kādambari' (1883), of Vallabhadeva's 'Subhāshitāvali' (with Pandit Durgaprasāda, 1886), and of the 'S'ārngadhara-paddhati' (1888). But his editions of the 'Hitopadesa' and of parts of the Rigveda, though mainly educational, were essentially thorough, and not only so, but excellently adapted for their object, stimulating and interesting to student-readers, and calculated to show what the spirit of critical scholarship should be. This spirit is only just being awakened in India, and it is lamentable to think that the British educational authorities in India now invariably fill up posts once held by Sanskrit scholars like Haug, Bühler, Kielhorn, and Peterson, by natives.

Peterson's services to Sanskrit literature have been warmly recognized on more than one occasion by the scholars of France and Germany, as well as by those of our own country, where he originally studied under Prof. Th. Aufrecht at Edinburgh, and at Oxford under Profs. Monier Williams and Max Müller. At the time of his death he was prosecuting a candidature for the Boden Chair of Sanskrit at Oxford. Many an English visitor to India has felt the charm of his genial and interesting personality, and he will live in the hearts of a wide circle of friends.

Literary Gossip.

IN Mr. Walter Pollock's forthcoming volume on 'Jane Austen: her Contemporaries and Herself,' already briefly announced in these columns, his aim has been to show why, at this day, Miss Austen's reputation as a novelist justly overtops that of women authors in and about her time who were by no means devoid of genius. Mr. Pollock has had access to the very few hitherto unearthed facts and documents relating to Miss Austen. Messrs. Longman will publish the book shortly.

A NEW novel by Sir William Magnay, the author of 'The Pride of Life,' &c., entitled 'The Heiress of the Season,' will be published on the 22nd inst. by Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. in this country, and by Messrs. Appleton & Co. in the United States.

ONE of Mr. Heinemann's most interesting announcements is Mr. Edmund Gosse's 'Life of John Donne,' in two volumes, which will be issued towards the end of the month. It contains a number of portraits and a great deal of new material concerning the Dean's life. Mr. Heinemann has also in hand Mr. Robert Hichens's new novel 'The Slave'; and three books of short stories, one entitled 'China-Town Stories,' by Mr. Fernald, the author of 'The Cat and the Cherub'; another by Mr. Richard Harding Davis; and the third by Mr. I. Zangwill, entitled 'They that Walk in Darkness.'

HE will also publish Mr. Cobbold's description of his journeys through Kashgaria and the Pamir region of Central Asia; Sir Walter Miéville's account of his life and experiences in Egypt when in the diplomatic service; and 'The Life of William Cotton Osell,' the real discoverer of Lake Ngami, an achievement generally attributed to Livingstone.

A brochure on the Church crisis will be issued from the *Westminster Gazette* office at the beginning of October. It will contain a brief history of the Ritualistic movement, a statement of the various forms of discipline in the Church of England, an account of the Lambeth inquiry, and an examination of various suggested remedies. Mr. C. Y. Sturge will contribute a chapter on the attitude of High Churchmen to Parliament and the Privy Council. An interesting feature of the book will be a summary in tabular form of all important Ritualist judgments since 1845. It will be illustrated by Mr. F. C. Gould.

MESSRS. HORACE MARSHALL & SON have now ready for publication several works dealing with imperial questions. Amongst these are Miss Kingsley's 'Story of West Africa' and Dr. Morgan Grace's 'Sketch of the New Zealand War,' both of which contain much hitherto unpublished information. Dr. Grace's book is the first account of the war with the Maori which is based on an intimate knowledge of both sides and the tactics employed, and is dedicated to Sir Anthony Home.

THE English translation of Dr. Bloch's 'The War of the Future' will be published on September 15th by Mr. Grant Richards, under the title of 'Is War now Impossible?' This translation is, of course, abridged from the six massive volumes in which the Russian work appeared, but it contains a large number of the original maps and diagrams.

TO-DAY takes place the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Dialect Society, when a paper on 'The Geographical Distribution of English Literature' will be read by Mr. Gollancz.

MESSRS. SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & Co. are to produce E. Livingston Prescott's new military novel, which is announced to appear early in October. Its title is 'Illusion: a Romance of Modern Egypt.'

MR. ELLIOT STOCK will publish early in the autumn a new story of Scottish life, entitled 'Malcolm Ross: a Romance,' by Alexander Craik.

THE death is announced at Simla of Mr. Theodore Beck, who left Cambridge, where he was a scholar of Trinity, to take up the post of Principal of the Mohammedan Col-

lege at Aligarh, a difficult post, in which he did valuable work.

MR. JOHN LONG has in preparation for the autumn a new work by Sir Richard Temple, entitled 'The House of Commons.' Among other features the book presents the following: The House of Commons as a Club; The Precincts and the Buildings; Life in Parliament; Manners and Customs of the House; Leading Figures in Parliament; The Irish Nationalist Party; and The Lords as Seen by the Commons.

THE Technical High Schools in Germany are endeavouring to obtain the privilege of conferring the title of "Doctor Rerum Technicarum," but naturally they meet with the strong opposition of the greater German universities, such as Berlin, Bonn, Breslau, &c., which consider that title a degradation of academic dignity.

THE Parliamentary Papers of the week are named under 'Science Gossip,' to which department they happen to belong.

SCIENCE

BOOKS ON PLANTS AND GARDENS.

Lectures on the Evolution of Plants. By Douglas Houghton Campbell, Ph.D. (Macmillan & Co.)—In as simple language as possible, and with great lucidity, Prof. Campbell sketches the progressive complexity manifest in plants when traced from the simplest to the most highly developed condition. He is thus enabled to present the facts of morphology in as orderly sequence as the imperfection of the record will allow. "Primum et ultimum hoc in Botanicis desideratum est," says Linnaeus, whose great aim was the production of a "natural system." The fragments he has left us show a considerable measure of success, considering the means at his disposal. But what Linnaeus meant by a "natural" system was rather one which we should now designate as one aiming at completeness in comparison with the inchoate and arbitrary arrangements devised rather to meet the convenience of naturalists than to express the real relationship of the things classified. The idea of kinship between the various forms, as we understand it, was hardly conceived by Linnaeus, though, indeed, he uses the word "affinitas." Now it is the most fascinating object of speculation and research with the younger generation of botanists. Comparative observation, as before, furnishes the facts from which theories may be deduced; but, thanks to more refined methods of research than were available in olden times, our knowledge of plant-structure and of plant-growth has vastly increased, and botanists like Prof. Campbell are able to shadow forth the main lines of descent of which our present plants are the representatives. Much, of course, is purely conjectural, and must in all probability remain so; but, still, solid advance is being made, as witness the discovery of spermatozoids in the pollen grain of Cycas and of Ginkgo—a fact which may be said to prove the long-conjectured affinity between ferns, lycopods, and gymnosperms. The present book is admirably adapted to convey a general knowledge of the subject and to serve as an introduction to more recondite treatises. Not only does it pass in review the main groups of plants, but it deals also with such subjects as the geographical and the geological distribution of plants, the relationships of animals and plants, and the influence of what we used to call external conditions, but which is now universally spoken of as the "environment." The illustrations are not good enough for the text, and there is a want of proportion between the objects

figured that is very misleading, as no scale is given. Thus on p. 253 a pitcher of *Sarracenia* is shown as twice or thrice the size of one of a *Nepenthes* (apparently *N. bicalcarata*), and one of the vesicles of a *Utricularia* as not much less in size than that of the *Nepenthes*!

The Romance of Wild Flowers: a Companion to the British Flora. By Edward Step. (Warne & Co.)—We do not think that the botanists of a generation or two back were so destitute of appreciation of the significance of the various forms they came in contact with as our author appears to think. We have heard of, and indeed read, many of the 'Amenities' of Linnaeus. The researches of Kolreuter, Sprengel, Vaucher were not wholly unknown a generation or two ago; and while it is pleasing to see the influence of Darwin actuating our naturalists, it is not necessary to overlook or underrate what was done by his predecessors and acknowledged by him. Mr. Step has produced an excellent little book, destined, he tells us, for unscientific flower-lovers. If this is the class he is catering for his labour will be vain. Unscientific flower-lovers will not take the trouble to read his pages. They are of the class that complain of hard words because they are not sufficiently interested in the subject to divine their meaning; we have never yet found that the terminology of science offered any serious obstacle to the student who was really interested in his work. Contrariwise, we have known students bored with the long-drawn-out and, as it were, "patronizing" style of information given in many so-called popular books. Mr. Step's book is an excellent one of its kind, but, like many others, he is not always sufficiently careful to distinguish between surmise or "romance" and demonstrated truth. He is, however, a more trustworthy guide than some of the romancists whose charm of style conceals their want of accuracy. The illustrations are some of them very pleasing, whilst others are accurate and appropriate—really illustrative of the text. The illustration at p. 167 of the sea-holly is excellent. Among the numerous works of similar character we should give this a high place.

Our Gardens. By S. Reynolds Hole. (Dent & Co.)—This forms one of the "Haddon Hall Library" series, and will be found to be an amusing, if not a very instructive book. By a curious coincidence, on the back of the first title-page—that belonging to the series—we find the quotation "Ridentem dicere verum quid vetat?" placed above "All rights reserved," as if the Dean reserved to himself the right to be humorous. No one who reads his pleasant pages will question this right; but some may lament that a little more of the *verum* was not intermixed with the *risus*. The chapter on the "pioneers" we venture to think one of the best in the book, and the tribute to the gardener monks a well-earned one. When the Dean betakes himself to his special subject and begins to talk of the plants which are to be the inmates of his garden, we can but regret that the assistance of some competent botanist or proof-reader was not sought. As no doubt a second edition will soon be called for, we may indicate pp. 119, 120, and pp. 122 to 149, as specially requiring attention, both as to facts and as to their mode of presentation. The general reader who seeks amusement will not trouble himself about such questions of detail, but will enjoy the bright cheeriness of the author's style. The chapter on the rose garden especially will be eagerly perused, for it is the work of an expert, and if all the chapters were on a level with it there would be small room for criticism.

The Municipal Parks, Gardens, and Open Spaces of London: their History and Associations. By Lieut.-Col. J. J. Sexby, V.D. Illustrated. (Stock.)—This book will, we doubt not, be as a revelation to many—to

cockneys even, as few Londoners are aware of the number of the parks, gardens, and open spaces that are at their disposal. The parks proper are known to most of us. They are under Government control. The open spaces which Col. Sexby qualifies by the term "municipal" are under the direction of the London County Council. Besides these there are Wimbledon Common in the south-west and Epping Forest in the north-east, to say nothing of spaces like Burnham Beeches at some little distance from the metropolis. Residents within ten or a dozen miles, witnessing the ever encroaching lines of unlovely tenements and the smoke-laden atmosphere which hangs like a pall over the great city, will admit that, large as the total area of open spaces may be, it is not nearly enough to secure even an approximation to purity and cleanliness so far as the atmosphere is concerned. When the fog fiend visits us its traces, once only apparent in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, are observable upon occasions so far out even as Reading. Plants and flowers, such as roses and violets, resent the poisoned air, and their culture has had to be abandoned—in any rate the nearer suburbs. It is not from the point of view of sanitary science, nor even of gardening, that Col. Sexby treats his subject. The "history and associations" of the several parks and commons form the subject of his work. Accepting the author's limitations, and speaking of his book with reference to what it does contain rather than to its omissions, we may say that Col. Sexby has produced for the benefit of the general reader a very interesting book. Diligent labour and abundant research are manifest throughout. The book is divided into thirty-one chapters, with appendix and indices. In these chapters is given a brief sketch of the history of each of the open spaces—some fifty in number—from the time of the Domesday Book to the present epoch. Thus, in the case of Dulwich Park, we have the history of the manor traced from the time when it was presented to the monks of Bermondsey by Henry I. It remained in their hands till the dissolution in 1537-8. Henry VIII. granted it to Thomas Calton, whose grandson, Sir Francis Calton, sold the manor to Edward Alleyn for the sum of 3,000l. How the last-named founded the "College of God's Gift," and how in our own times the educational and charitable endowments have been entirely remodelled, need not here be detailed. Singularly enough, the author dismisses the picture-gallery with the briefest mention, though he dwells at greater length on the Greyhound and Green Man taverns, and on Byron's life at "Dr. Glennie's Academy." In similar manner the author discourses of all the other open spaces. He even goes so far, in his account of Clapham Common, as to include "medical students" with other "rowdy members of society." This is an aspersion which, we venture to think, was never wholly warranted, and certainly not in 1877-8. There is much more interesting and trustworthy detail about Clapham Common and its vicinity, but we have not space to make further citations. Suffice it to say that to those interested either in central or suburban London the present volume is very acceptable, none the less so from the profusion of illustrations and the copious index with which it is provided.

CHEMICAL LITERATURE.

Outlines of Physical Chemistry. By A. Reyckler. Translated by John McCrae, Ph.D. (Whittaker & Co.)—This little book, by the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Brussels, was first published in French; the translation is dedicated to the memory of Dr. F. Hurter, late scientific adviser to the United Alkali Company, who began the rendering of the original. This edition is an improvement on the original Belgian edition, owing to corrections and addi-

tions; the figures, fifty-two in number, have been redrawn. The arrangement of the matter is on the usual lines: first come fundamental theories, the laws of chemical combination and the atomic hypothesis, then the laws relating to gases, vapour density, specific heat of solids, valency, and the periodic classification; the second part enters more fully into the properties of gases and of liquids; the third part relates to thermochemistry and electrochemistry, and the nature of salt solutions; and the fourth part to chemical equilibrium and chemical dynamics, that is, the velocity of reactions. Probably to the ordinary student this arrangement is the most convenient, although some masters of the subject prefer to start with the consideration of chemical equilibrium and chemical dynamics. Generally the work is accurate and satisfactory, but possesses no special virtues; in some parts it is too meagre to be of much use, e.g., on the nature of salt solutions and existence of free ions. Occasionally the translation is weak or too literal; for example, "luminary vibration"; "the ascension of the mercury" in a thermometer; "electrolysable compounds" for *electrolytes*; and "the momentary course of the reaction" for the velocity of the reaction at a given moment.

Lectures on Theoretical and Physical Chemistry. By J. H. van't Hoff. Translated by Dr. R. A. Lehfeldt.—Part I. *Chemical Dynamics.* (Arnold.)—This is a translation of Van't Hoff's 'Vorlesungen über theoretische und physikalische Chemie,' which reproduces, with some additions, lectures given at the University of Berlin under the title 'Selected Chapters in Physical Chemistry.' The author divides his subject, following Lothar Meyer, into chemical statics and chemical dynamics, adding, however, a third division on relations between properties—both chemical and physical—and constitution. Under chemical dynamics he deals with chemical change, affinity, velocity of reaction, and chemical equilibrium. Under chemical statics he proposes to deal with views on the structure of matter, the conception of atoms and molecules, and on the constitution, so far as the determining of molecular configuration. Chemical dynamics are dealt with before statics, as it is possible to proceed without any hypothesis on the nature of matter, except making use of the molecular concept; it therefore affords a simpler introduction and more solid foundation for the science of chemistry. Chemical equilibrium is first dealt with from a thermodynamical point of view, and afterwards from the molecular-mechanical standpoint. Examples are given under the first aspect of the equilibrium of a single substance, between two substances, three substances, and four substances. Under the kinetic point of view the subject is divided into homogeneous equilibrium, heterogeneous equilibrium, and general conclusions. The velocity of reaction is treated from this standpoint, and examples given of monomolecular, bimolecular, and trimolecular reactions, and of the nature of the influences hindering chemical change. Empirical results obtained in the study of velocity of reaction, showing the influence of the surroundings, of the temperature, and of the pressure on the reaction velocity, are given; and, finally, an account of progressive combustion as studied by Bunsen and others, and of explosion waves from the work of Berthelot, Dixon, &c. The translation is well done, and to those who have the necessary preliminary knowledge of chemistry and acquaintance with mathematics the work will be of the greatest value. The principles of physical chemistry are explained clearly and at the same time concisely.

A Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492-1897. First Supplement. By Henry Carrington Bolton. (Washington, Smithsonian Institution.)—In 1893 was published Mr. H. C. Bolton's 'Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492-1892; this supplement includes works omitted in that volume,

and brings the literature of chemistry down to the close of the year 1897. The present volume includes the titles of 5,554 works, making, with those of the original volume, a grand total of 17,585. German, French, and English titles head the list, followed by Russian and Italian. There are in this supplement thirteen titles in Arabic, six in Polish, four each in Hungarian and Icelandic, three each in Armenian and Greek, two in Roumanian, and one each in Turkish, Tamil, and Volapük—we hope the last will remain unique. The work has been most carefully and conscientiously done, and the thanks of every chemist are due to the compiler and to the Smithsonian Institution for its preparation and publication.

The Arithmetic of Chemistry: being a Simple Treatment of the Subject of Chemical Calculations. By John Waddell, B.Sc. (Macmillan & Co.).—This is an attempt to smooth away the difficulties of elementary students in attempting chemical calculations. It is a very good effort in that direction, but does not appear to possess any distinct advantages over other little books on the subject. A good many examples of questions involving calculations, taken from examination papers of English and American universities, are given.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

DR. DONALDSON SMITH left Berbera on the last day of July on a second expedition to Lake Rudolf. He is accompanied by Mr. Carlile Fraser, who will collect specimens of the fauna and flora.

Sir Harry Johnston left England last week for Uganda, accompanied by Mr. Doggett, a natural history collector. His mission is primarily of a political nature, although there can be no doubt that science, too, will profit, if only by the establishment in Eastern Africa and Uganda of a Scientific Department, such as he originated whilst Governor of Nyasaland. It has already done excellent work.

The *Geographical Journal* publishes Capt. G. E. Smith's paper on 'Road-making and Surveying in British East Africa.' The "road" is that which connects Mombasa with the Victoria Nyanza, and was made under the direction of the late Capt. B. L. Slater; but the chief scientific value of the paper consists in the account of a triangulation by means of which Capt. Smith connected the coast with the great African lake, and determined the latter to have an altitude of 3,775 feet. Work of more importance has rarely if ever been done in Africa, and it is some satisfaction to us that it was accomplished by a British officer, and that, too, at a ridiculously small cost. In the same number of the *Journal* will be found the account, by Mr. R. T. Turley, of a journey into that portion of Shantung which borders upon Korea, a district "generally very fertile, and almost everywhere known to be rich in minerals—gold, copper, iron, coal, and silver." The accompanying map embraces the whole of Central and Southern Manchuria, including the Russian "leasehold" in the Liao Tung peninsula.

Russophiles will read with pleasure an article in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, as its author, Mr. Francis H. Skrine, an Indian civil servant, has the courage to demand that the gap of 438 miles still separating the Russian Transcaspian Railway from Chaman shall be bridged. The distance to be travelled between London and Karachi would then amount to 4,716 miles, and Karachi might be reached in seven days. The author prefers this Russian route to that through Constantinople, and thinks "posterity will, perhaps, indorse" Lord Palmerston's "masterful action" when, to appease the susceptibilities of the French, he put a veto upon General Chesney's Euphrates line.

Petermann's Mittheilungen publishes a new chart, showing the depths of the ocean, by Dr. Supan. The author, in the paper which accom-

panies it, proposes to enlarge the terminology in use hitherto by distinguishing submarine rises or swells, ridges and plateaus; flat hollows (*Mulden*), basins, and troughs; he, moreover, would distinguish these various features by geographical designations, instead of naming them after ships and persons, a proposal deserving of consideration. The chart, as far as its tinting is concerned, is an absolute failure, partly owing to the printer, who has failed to give effect to the author's intentions. It is a pity, too, that Dr. Supan should have chosen Mercator's projection, without, at least, adding two Polar charts as insets, for the features of the ocean-bed, as we approach the Poles, become quite unrecognizable. A shorter article demonstrates that the Belgians have no right whatever to Lake Kivu and the Rusizi valley, as both lie within German territory on the map annexed to the only boundary treaty—that of November 8th, 1884—concluded between the empire and the Congo State.

A *Geographischer Anzeiger* is now being published as a supplement to the last-named journal, which, in addition to advertisements, contains geographical notes and notes on books.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

A NEW small planet is announced as having been discovered by M. Mascart at the Paris Observatory on the night of the 26th ult.

Sir Cuthbert E. Peek continues to publish from time to time in separate form the results of the observations of variable stars obtained by himself and his assistant (Mr. C. Grover) at the Rousdon Observatory, Devonshire; the last of these issues, No. 6, contains a long series of observations of U Orionis and S Herculis extending over an interval of thirteen years.

Prof. T. J. J. See contributes an article to No. 3586 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* on the determination of the potential of a heterogeneous sphere upon itself, with an extension of Helmholtz's theory of the heat of the sun. One of his conclusions (which will be generally interesting, though scarcely alarming) is that the store of potential energy still retained by our sun is not likely to prolong radiation at its present rate for more than about four million years.

We have received the sixth number of the twenty-eighth volume of the *Memorie della Società degli Spettroscopisti Italiani*, containing a translation of an article by Father Fényi (with a supplementary note by Prof. Mascari) on the great solar spot of September, 1898, a paper by M. Hasselberg on the cosmical diffusion of vanadium, and some other papers.

Science Gossip.

THE annual distribution of medals and prizes obtained by the students of the Royal College of Science will take place in the lecture theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum on Thursday, October 5th, when Prof. A. W. Rücker will deliver an address.

OF recent Parliamentary Papers only the Report of the Ordnance Survey, Progress of to March 31st, 1899 (3s. 3d.), is of general interest. Africa, No. 9, which contains Col. Macdonald's report, is disappointing. Capt. Welby's hoped-for paper before the Geographical Society will cover more important ground.

MR. W. D. WEBSTER, of Bicester, has produced another of his excellent illustrated catalogues, which presents ethnographical specimens secured in the punitive expedition against Benin city.

THE yearly general meeting of the Swiss Alpine Club was held at Lugano on the 3rd and 4th inst. It is the first time that the Club has met in the Canton of Ticino, and the young Section Ticino has done its best to give the members of the Club a good reception. The section, which was founded in 1886 by

Major Curti, and received into the Swiss Alpine Club in the following year, has developed a vigorous activity, as may be seen by its own year-book, the 'Annuario del Club Alpino Ticinese.' Dr. Silvio Callioni, of the Lyceum at Lugano, is the president of the section.

FINE ARTS

British Miniature Painters and their Works. By J. J. Foster. Illustrated. (Sampson Low & Co.)

THIS handsome volume, which is copiously illustrated, and adorned with well-chosen examples of the art of miniature painting in England from the days of the illuminators of missals to those of Ross and Thorburn, being a dignified quarto just two inches thick, is manifestly intended for the table rather than to be carried in the hand. A good deal of its bulk is due to the wide luxuriousness of the margins (which would admit of reduction in an edition published at half the price of the present), while the numerous and beautiful versions of the miniatures, being in photogravure, could be reproduced on smaller pages without loss of their charm and delicacy. Mr. Foster, apart from what we have to say below, is thoroughly versed in his subject, an adept in choosing his authorities, widely read in the byways of history and biography, and also in the annals of the auction-rooms, though of course he is too well grounded not to recognize this last source as a frequent field for the development of frauds, fads, and fancies.

Mr. Foster is not so happy in quoting his authorities as in choosing them, nor is he quite safe as a technical critic when he describes Holbein's famous drawing of a clock, now in the British Museum, as a proof of the great artist's "masterly" draughtsmanship. If Holbein had left no more masterly drawing than this, we should have turned to his Windsor portraits in chalk, to his woodcuts, to the great cartoons of the two kings Henry VII. and Henry VIII., and to the portrait of the Duchess of Milan, in order to establish his mastership. There is no particular mastery in the project for the clock, though it is a fine design, which is quite another thing. Again, when Mr. Foster revises his account of the origin of the report that Holbein painted with his left hand, he will do well to refer to Scharf's statements in 'Old London,' 1867, p. 320, on this subject. The report had nothing whatever to do with the fact of Lucas Vosterman's portrait of Holbein "being rendered the reverse way of the drawing" it was copied from. Really, this is an astonishing slip on so accomplished and careful an author's part. When speaking of the remarkable recovery of the fine group of miniatures now in Montagu House, which Van der Doort catalogued in King Charles's collection, why did Mr. Foster—instead of saying that "some of them were brought into a London print-shop by a picture-frame maker," who had bought them at a sale—not state that Colnaghi's was the print-shop, and that, to his honour, "old Dominic Colnaghi" was the expert who recognized their value and forthwith bought them for the late Duke of Buccleuch?

Though the digest of things known about Nicholas Hilliard and his art is compact and clear, it contains, it must be said, no novelties in the way of facts or conclusions. The account of the Olivers and John Hoskins is better, but it owes a good deal to Walpole and his authority George Vertue. About the latter Mr. Foster is somewhat injudiciously reticent, if not silent. It was not "in the streets of Portsmouth" (p. 29) that Felton stabbed Buckingham. Amid several remarks which show much greater acumen and better criticism than the foregoing is the following, anent the much vexed question of the Hoskins signatures, upon which critics who have no technical knowledge mainly depend when they ascribe pictures to one or other of that family:—

"It may be observed that mention is made of but one Hoskins, and the opinion (to which Redgrave gives his support) that there were two John Hoskinses, viz., father and son, seems to rest mainly upon the foundation of a variation in signing the portrait. Thus the mark + is said to distinguish the work of the father from that of the son, which has J. H. simply. But if this be the test, then it may be urged there must have been several John Hoskinses, since amongst the miniatures shown at Burlington House by the Queen and the Duke of Buccleuch, ascribed to Hoskins, there were the following different signatures, viz., 'J. H. 1645,' 'J. H. fc.,' 'J.H.' (connected)."

This evidence does not count for much unless it can be proved that either of the Hoskinses invariably used the same signature, which is not likely. Considerations of "hands" and dates go much further with practical art critics than signatures of any kind, which any one can forge. It is very difficult indeed to forge the always characteristic and personal "hand" of a master, and none but technically trained experts are to be credited with trustworthy opinions about such matters; and signatures or inscriptions of any kind are but what may be called collateral evidence, and never conclusive in that capacity. Besides, there have been painters, Rubens to wit, who put their names upon paintings of which it is obvious that the designs only, and perhaps not the whole of them, are their own. On the other hand, when a signature and the characteristic treatment of a work of art agree in suggesting one author, as in that charming miniature which came from the Buccleuch collection to the Academy in 1879 (Case E, No. 13), and upon the rare qualities of which Mr. Foster waxes unwontedly enthusiastic, it is delightful to profit by their conjoint evidence. This is the experience of all who remember the work in question, a portrait of Alicia, daughter of John Brandon, Chamberlain of London, whom N. Hilliard married and painted, according to the inscription, "Alicia Brandon, Nicolai Hilliard, qui propria manu depinxit, Uxor prima. Anno Dni 1578. Etatis Suae 22. N. H." Concerning this gem Mr. Foster, without mentioning the fact, quotes *verb. et lit.* from our review of the exhibition (*Athen.* 2678, p. 253, col. 3): "It was bought a few years ago by a jeweller, in what is called a 'job lot' of old gold and silver, and for a small sum." We are glad to find that Mr. Foster adds his belief in this note of ours, but he might as well have acknowledged his authority. Such an omission is no frequent

circumstance in this book. Nor is this example covered by any reference to the *Athenæum* in the author's copious catalogue of authorities prefixed to the text. Our criticism on Mrs. Hilliard's delicious likeness is analogous to that before us. We said it was "one of the loveliest miniatures here . . . a delicate and beautiful work, in good condition [as indeed all the Hilliards that we know of are], and delightful from the vivacity of the features, which seem to smile on us most ingenuously." On our page following this, col. 2, Mr. Foster might have found the account of the recovery of lost miniatures of King Charles's by Mr. Colnaghi for the Duke of Buccleuch to which we have referred above. The actual finder, it may be added, was the present writer's authority for these and other unacknowledged details concerning the same epoch of miniature painting.

These pages do not add anything to Walpole's account, or rather no account, of Isaac Oliver, or Olivier (a form pointing to a French origin of the family), but they aptly quote the note of Peacham that Oliver was "inferior to none in Christendom, for the countenance in small." And it is refreshing to read again how the "Signor Horatio," as his critics called the compiler of the 'Anecdotes,' wrote of the origins of Isaac and his kin,—"nor is it of any importance; he [Isaac] was a genius, and they transmit [*sic*] more honour by blood than they can receive." It is Vertue who supports the probability of a French origin for the Olivers, Isaac's pocket-book, which Vertue possessed, being written in a mixture of English and French. We learn from an office-book of Lord Harrington's, who, as Treasurer of the Chamber, had to do with the royal petty cash, that at Lincoln, in April, 1617, there was paid "to Isaac Oliver for four several pictures drawn for the Prince's Highness [Charles I., then Duke of York] 40*l*." In these times this was (if we allow for the altered value of money) very fair payment. The famous Isaac Oliver dated 1616, a portrait of the Earl of Dorset (the same who had in keeping that wonderful beauty who became Lady Venetia Digby), fetched at the Sackville Bale sale not less than 750*l*., one of the highest prices ever given for a miniature. It is now at South Kensington, a portion of the John Jones gift, and the admirably reproduced photogravure of it is one of those numerous and charming prints which add greatly to the value of Mr. Foster's book. It is an ugly miniature, very queerly drawn as to his lordship's legs, but replete, as many works of the kind and period are, with details of costume and accessories, from the embroidered clocks on the figure's hose, and the funeral plumes of the casque at his side, to the hangings on the wall behind him, and the fine Persian carpet (the pattern and colours of which are exactly such as are in vogue under the present Shah). The prices of miniatures rose rapidly between 1617, as above, and 1668, when we find Pepys hastening to pay S. Cooper 30*l*. for the likeness of that "poor wretch" his wife; at the same time he paid 8*l*. 3*s*. 4*d*. for the "chrysal and case, and gold case," containing Mrs. Pepys's picture. It is true that her spouse hardly justified himself for paying so much money,

but it is evident the price was normal, seeing that it is recorded here how one Swinfen had agreed to pay Cooper 30*l*. for a likeness of himself, which, Swinfen failing to pay, Cooper had to buy back from his creditors at the rate of 25*l*.

Mr. Foster is right in endorsing the criticisms of experts as to the singular freedom, harmony, and breadth of style which are to be found in S. Cooper's works, and Walpole was, as usual, a judicious critic when he wrote that, if a glass could expand Cooper's miniatures to the size of Van Dyck's pictures, "they would appear to have been painted for that proportion." Of no other master in miniature practising in England could this have been said, except of Holbein. Walpole was right when he compared S. Cooper's works with those of I. Oliver to the disadvantage of the older man, and yet King James was so much in love with Hilliard's method that, after his wont, he granted to him a monopoly "for twelve years to invent, make, grave, and imprint any pictures of our image or our royal family . . . with power to take a constable and search for any pictures, plates, or works printed, sold, or set up." Queen Elizabeth had done much the same thing. In 1758, at Harry Furnesse's sale, Walpole demurred bitterly, as Mr. Foster reminds us, because he was asked 400*l*. for one of Cooper's unfinished miniatures of Oliver Cromwell. But then this was an exceptional work of undoubted authenticity and of an exceptional subject. It seems to have been Cooper's practice, as it was Holbein's, to make studies for some at least of his portraits in chalks upon paper. He painted a portrait of Charles II., now belonging to the Duke of Richmond, which is by much the most spirited and characteristic of the man. Of Thomas Flatman, briefless barrister, poet, and bad painter, as some one called him, Mr. Foster has a short notice; but, though he quotes it, he wisely omits to endorse the cruel judgment of Rochester on

The slow drudge,
Flatman, who Cowley imitates with pains,
And rides a jaded muse, whipt with loose reins.

Here, as is frequent with Rochester, is more than meets the eye; but as to Flatman's painting, we have seen miniatures in oil, such as Mr. Foster does not mention, which are very much indeed to the artist's credit. Our author, too, has a Flatman which, he says, might be mistaken, at first sight, for a Cooper. In speaking of Mary Beale, Mr. Foster is silent as to her selling pigments, especially ultramarine, to painters, who, till then, either ground the crude materials at home or had the colours in powder, ready for use, from Paris. Of Sir Balthazar Gerbier the notice is scant, and does not mention that, besides being a painter of miniatures, he sat to Rubens, was a frequent agent of King Charles and the Duke of Buckingham in buying works of art, and was probably the first keeper of an art academy in London. Cornelius Jansen (or Jonson) deserved more than seven lines, nor does Bernard Lens come much better off in Mr. Foster's text. In fact, the minor miniaturists of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries deserve more attention than they get in these pages. To some of those painters we owe not a few records of rare value of noteworthy men.

A chapter before us is devoted to enamelling for miniatures, and includes a capital sketch of the Petitts, some of whom, despite their French descent, worked long and well in England. The work, which is systematic throughout, continues to the conclusion of the body of the text with notices (many of which might well have been more comprehensive and extensive) of the miniature painters from the middle of the eighteenth century onwards. It contains a few minor errors. B. Lens is not noted as a glass painter. The *ci-devant* Russell Place, Fitzroy Square, is not in Bloomsbury. A. T. Derby is made to die in 1783, which is a century too early, and three years before his better-known father was born. "Dr. Munro" should be Dr. Monro. The accounts of the Cosways and the Plimers are, as they must needs be, much more copious and better proportioned to the merits of the artists than those which do scant justice to some of their contemporaries. There was no Sir Benjamin West, though Mr. Foster, who ought to know better, does for the P.R.A. what George III. neglected to do. Of course it is an exaggeration to say that Sir William Ross painted 2,000 miniatures, though he was largely helped by his brother Hugh and others. But Mr. Foster does justice to an excellent artist and kindly man. He forgets that Ross, though a miniature painter, was ambitious enough to execute a large cartoon for the exhibition in 1843 at Westminster Hall, and, had he been commissioned for the purpose, would not have flinched from painting nudités at life size in fresco on the wall of the Palace at Westminster. In fact, his cartoon comprised some decidedly "modish" females or goddesses, not innocent of bodices, and as plump as partridges. Of Thorburn there is a sufficient account, supplemented by a large, though manifestly imperfect list of his portraits. An interesting and varied chapter is devoted to "Collections and Collectors," with a useful list of the more important in this country of the former, and a sort of harmony of artists of the same name which is useful in preventing mistakes; but it ought to have comprised the birth and death dates of the painters. We miss the name of John Linnell as a miniature painter. A good section discusses the care of miniatures, and some astounding anecdotes of ignorance show how desirable such information is. What was done in old days to ensure the preservation of such works is attested by the number of beautifully carved and turned ivory boxes for miniatures which still exist, dating, some of them, from the days of Elizabeth, and even earlier. A readable chapter of "gossip" about miniatures concludes the text. Appendices, that fill nearly half the volume, and need not appear in the cheaper edition we desire, consist of extracts concerning miniatures from the catalogue of Strawberry Hill sale, 1842; the whole of the catalogue of Ross's miniatures exhibited by the Society of Arts in 1860; as well as that of the Loan Collection of Miniatures at South Kensington, 1865; the catalogue of miniatures at the Academy, 1879; the catalogues of Messrs. Dickinson's collection, exhibited 1880, and of the miniatures in the New Gallery, 1889, 1890, and 1891.

A large proportion of Mr. Foster's pains have been, as we said before, devoted to the histories of miniatures and the sitters for them. Concerning the provenance of the works themselves he is less copious, though by no means silent. He tells among these details the wonderful legend related by Lord Herbert of Cherbury about that remarkable person the wife of Sir John Ayres, a lady who, having surreptitiously obtained a copy by Isaac Oliver of his lordship's likeness,

"caused it to be set in gold and enamel, and so wore it about her neck so low that she hid it under her breasts, which I conceive coming afterwards to the knowledge of Sir John Ayres, gave him more cause for jealousy than needed, had he known how innocent I was from pretending to anything which might wrong him or the lady; since I could not so much as imagine that either she had my picture or that she bore more than ordinary affection for me."

His lordship, who was a great coxcomb, then proceeded to relate how, notwithstanding his inability to "imagine" anything wrong,

"coming one day into her [Lady Ayres's] chamber, I saw her through the curtains lying upon her bed with a wax candle in one hand [because no doubt it was broad daylight at the time], and the picture I formerly mentioned in the other."

After a struggle he convinced himself that "it was my picture she gazed at with more earnestness and passion than I could easily have believed, especially since myself was not engaged in any affection for her." After this, his lordship's surprise was great when the lady's husband, seconded by four armed men, set upon him in Scotland Yard "on purpose to kill me," whereupon ensued a scuffle which seems to have been likely to end seriously for the autobiographer if "one Mr. Mansel, a Glamorganshire gentleman, finding so many set against me alone, [had not] closed with one of them; a Scotch gentleman also closing with one, took him off also." The narrative, which is long and picturesque, is one of the most striking illustrations of the ways and manners of the time that have centred upon a miniature, and it would have been unpardonable on Mr. Foster's part if he had omitted it from his chapter of "gossip."

There are innumerable miniatures of Charles I., some with abundantly pathetic histories attached to them. One of these refers to the custom of working a likeness in miniature in the subject's own hair, a method of work, let us add, in vogue till quite recent times, and frequently displayed in the catalogues of old exhibitions:—

"The pathetic interest attaching to the relic of Charles which is in the Shelley family is so remarkable that a brief description of it must be given. It is formed of the king's hair dipped in his blood on the scaffold. The long hair which he wore was probably cut off by the executioner for the convenience of his ghastly office. When the Prince Regent in 1813 had the remains of Charles examined, Sir Henry Hallford states that at the back of the head the hair was cut short."

THE NEW REMBRANDT.

WHEN I first brought the Rembrandt "Vanitas" picture to notice in your columns it was not that I had any doubts as to its origin—the internal evidence of the work was convincing; but it was with the object of finding

out if any matters of positive fact could be adduced, which would seem to afford even plausible grounds for dispute.

There has, as I quite expected, been a chorus of continental opinion, mostly adverse, which has also found an echo in your columns; but, so far as I am aware, not a single serious, well-grounded objection or matter of evidence has been forthcoming.

Let us see what these adverse opinions only have amounted to. The principal objections are as follows. Firstly, it has been contended that Rembrandt could not have painted such a picture at the early age in question. Secondly, that "Van Ryn" is an unique form of the great artist's signature, consequently that it could not be his. Thirdly, that the qualification "retouched" (*geretuckert*) in the official inventory of Rembrandt's effects, applied to the four "Vanitas" pictures and to several others therein specified, indicates that the pictures in question were the works of other painters, retouched only by Rembrandt; so that even if the present picture be the "Vanitas with a Skull" noted in the inventory in question, it would be of little or no value as an evidence of Rembrandt's earliest work. I think I can make it clear enough that none of these objections will hold water.

In regard to the first of them, apparently, the critics have not taken the trouble to refer to the usual sources of information as to the early days of the great artist. If they had done so, they would have found that the one especial contemporary authority as to Rembrandt's youthful doings, his fellow-townsmen Orlers, makes it perfectly clear that even during his earliest boyhood Rembrandt was universally regarded as a prodigy of precocious development in his art. Moreover, so wonderfully propitious seems to have been the art atmosphere of Leyden in those days, that his friend and fellow-student Lievens, who was a year younger even, was still more precocious, for it is gravely recorded that he produced an important historical picture (not a mere academy study like this "Vanitas" picture) in his tenth year. This last piece of information is certainly a little staggering, but, at all events, it makes it clear that these young seventeenth-century Dutchmen were very quick-growing plants, such, at all events, as their country scarcely produces nowadays.

So much then for objection No. 1. Next as to the signature. My continental critics, as I have already intimated in your columns, when they could not dispute the genuineness of the "Van Ryn" signature, fell back, as I have understood, on the assertion that there were several other painters of the same name working at the time in Holland, and that the "Vanitas" picture was by some one or other of these painters, and not by Rembrandt. However, this seems to have been a hasty and quite unsupported assertion, for apparently they have not yet been able to find a single one of these hypothetical artists; but even if they could find the names of any number of "Van Ryn" painters in some forgotten register or other, it does not seem to have occurred to the critics that it would be necessary to find their works also, and to show that their style and technique were identical with those of the present picture, which are unquestionably those of the earliest period of Rembrandt's practice. Moreover, it would be requisite to show that these painters were in the habit of painting "Vanitas" pictures with books, skulls, &c., in 1621, that being an unusually early period, be it observed, for the appearance of such works. Your readers will judge of the likelihood of the occurrence of any such discoveries.

Thirdly, as to the qualification "retouched" (*geretuckert*), this seems to me the weakest of these objections. In the first place, I may observe that all the pictures in the official inventory to which this qualification is appended are specially and particularly described as

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having been painted by the hand of Rembrandt. I confess, then, I cannot understand on what grounds, in the face of this explicit declaration, there should be any question as to the authorship of these pictures, four of which are "Vanitas" subjects. Is it to be assumed that Rembrandt, having amassed quite a number of works by other painters, proceeded to retouch them, in order to pass them off as his own? This supposition, I think, need not be discussed. For some reason or other, obviously Rembrandt had chosen at an after period to retouch and improve certain of his own productions, which had remained in his possession. That they were works of his earlier periods may be concluded, not only from the mere fact that they required retouching, but that certain of the subjects themselves especially indicated it. Rembrandt's "Vanitas" pictures (there are, by the way, besides the picture now in question, other analogous works of the master extant) were apparently all of the master's earlier years, there being no such works known of his mature period. On this point I may have more to say hereafter; meanwhile, I apprehend that the true explanation of the matter is, that these retouched pictures were early works of the master, which had remained on his hands unsold, and which, when misfortune fell upon him, he had endeavoured to render saleable by added embellishment in his well-known and popular style. Although the prestige of the master in his later years had declined, there was still magic in his name. J. C. ROBINSON.

First Art Gossip.

We are glad to hear that the veteran artist Adolf Menzel, who, as we reported last week, had met with an accident, has already so far recovered as to be able to take exercise in the open air at Bad Kissingen.

M. MICHEL'S 'Life of Rubens' will be published by Mr. Heinemann in October. It is a companion work to the same author's 'Rembrandt,' and forms two large volumes, with several hundred text illustrations and eighty full-page plates. The book will appear simultaneously with the French edition, to the contents of which are added reproductions of several pictures in English hands.

MR. HEINEMANN is also going to publish Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse's book on 'British Contemporary Artists,' seven studies of the following distinguished painters: Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema, Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Sir John E. Millais, Lord Leighton, W. Orchardson, Sir E. Poynter, and G. F. Watts. The volume will be copiously illustrated.

In 'The Sculptor Caught Napping,' shortly to be published by Messrs. J. M. Dent & Co., some favourite old nursery rhymes will be illustrated by a process never employed before. There are a few silhouettes, but in the greater number of the illustrations, instead of staining a white background with a mass of black, the artist uses what may be described as cameos to produce her effect. They have been cut out of white paper, which is then pasted on a black background, and the essential details marked by the fine point of a stiletto.

The new edition of Nimrod's 'Life and Death of John Mytton,' which Messrs. Downey & Co. are shortly about to issue, will be a new departure in finely illustrated books. Several coloured illustrations in this edition de luce reproduce lively water colours by Alken so remarkably that they might be easily taken for the originals. The success of the process of reproduction is certainly remarkable.

On the 29th ult. Messrs. Foster sold at Folkestone the art collections of the late Mr. John Rohde. On this occasion Mr. Buttery bought for 220 guineas a full-length 'Portrait of a Gentleman with a Greyhound,' by T. de

Keyser, and Mr. S. T. Smith gave 100 guineas for 'A Landscape,' by Gainsborough. On the following day, at the same place and from the same collection, the same firm sold to Mr. Parsons a collection of autographs of George III., George IV., Nelson, Wellington, Southey, Sheridan, Chatham, Pitt, and others, for 20 guineas, and to Mr. Parsons for 46 guineas, the highest price ever given for it, a copy of Smith's 'Catalogue Raisonné'; for 60 guineas, Heer J. Israël's 'A Jewish Maiden'; and, for 70 guineas, 'Rembrandt's Studio,' by Baron H. Leys.

THE late Comte Henri Delaborde, formerly Perpetual Secretary to the Académie des Beaux-Arts, &c., has bequeathed to the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, in remembrance of the years during which he officiated there as Conservateur du Cabinet des Estampes, and of the *bienveillance* he always encountered in that function, the copy, to which he had added numerous annotations, of the work on Marc Antonio published by himself in 1888. In addition he has left to the same institution (the French Print-Room) a complete series of impressions of the plates published by the Société Française de Gravure from its beginning until the death of the testator.

MUSIC

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Seven German Lieder and Three English Songs. By Fritz Delius. (Concorde Concert Control).—We made acquaintance with this composer's music last season at the concert given by him at St. James's Hall, and recognized therein power of no mean order. And yet there was much which appeared to us forced and extravagant, while at times there were sounds positively harsh and ugly. Of all the pieces, instrumental and vocal, the songs appeared to be the most satisfactory. The works of larger compass really required a second hearing. We frankly recorded the effect produced on us by the music; for proper criticism, however, of music so novel and so intricate, first impressions must be confirmed or corrected. In the songs before us we again find much to admire. There is poetry, breadth, and refinement in the music. The poems of two of the German songs, 'Wiegenlied' and 'Abendstimmung' have already been set by Grieg, and in his best manner; comparison therefore becomes inevitable. One certainly misses the naïve, folk style of the Norwegian composer, but Mr. Delius has wedded the words to tones of singular charm and refinement, especially in the 'Abendstimmung.' In the other songs, all of which have many attractive points, we trace the influence of Grieg and of Wagner; nevertheless they display originality. The composer is happy in his harmonies, which are always skilful and interesting. And yet one cannot help feeling that his accompaniments are occasionally overcharged; the very frequency with which he uses piquant progressions, or peculiar chords, excellent in themselves, detracts from the strength of the music. Now and then we meet with forced effects, though mild in comparison with some in the compositions heard last summer. The English songs are settings of Shelley's 'Indian Love Song,' 'Love's Philosophy,' and 'To the Queen of my Heart.' The first and third are full of fine feeling and strong passion; for No. 2 we care less. The German songs are dedicated to Frau Nina Grieg.

We have received from Messrs. Breitkopf & Härtel: *Sonate für Pianoforte und Violoncell*. Von M. Esposito. Op. 43.—This sonata received a prize from the Incorporated Society of Musicians in 1898. We cannot say how far it exceeded in merit the other compositions sent in; but we have no hesitation in declaring it a sound and attractive work. The opening movement, *allegro moderato*, has good thematic

material, which is developed in a skilful manner, yet without trace of dryness; here, and also later on, the influence of Brahms is perceptible. The *lento* movement is full of striking points; the characteristic theme opens with a flowing phrase, followed by one containing snaps and slides, while to both is opposed a mysteriously moving bass of notes of short value. Then the middle *piu lento* major section, with its soft, tender phrase and still softer syncopated accompaniment, offers quiet yet effective contrast. There is good writing in the finale, but it seems to us comparatively tame.

Konzertstück für Orgel u. Orchester. By Reginald Steggall.—The thematic material is good, and the workmanship clever. The harmonies are somewhat artificial, and there is a certain straining after effect, yet on the whole this 'Konzertstück' is a solid, praiseworthy, and, in a good sense, showy composition.

Schule des vierhändigen Klavierspiels. Herausgegeben von Conrad Kühner. 12 Hefte.—Duet-playing is both profitable and pleasant when the two players are equally matched, and of good compositions of this class there is no lack. It was an excellent idea to collect specimens in classical and modern style, and arranged in progressive order, and, so far as we are aware, a new one. The twelve books contain 123 numbers, and with the selections there is no fault to find. Messrs. Breitkopf & Härtel might well follow up this series with another, consisting of first-class arrangements of overtures and symphonies, especially of early and little-known ones by Haydn and Mozart.

The Conservatoire Collection of Choice Pianoforte Music. By Henry Germer.—The editor is an experienced teacher, and the well-known author of 'Die Technik des Klavierspiels' and 'Die musikalische Ornamentik.' The collection is good, both for instruction and recreation. Among the pieces we would mention some light, attractive ones by F. Gawby, somewhat after the manner of Jensen; the pleasing 'Miniature Pictures' of E. Hornemann; and the delightful 'Consolations' of Liszt. In the last named there are some curious variations from the original text, some of which are improvements; for others, however, we cannot see any justification. The original text, in every case, is shown in a foot-note.

Irish Popular Songs, arranged for a medium voice with pianoforte accompaniments, by Ernst von Stockhausen, Parts 1, 2, and 3.—We sometimes feel doubtful as to the proper way of treating old national melodies. They were originally sung without accompaniment, or supported, at most, by a few plain chords on the harp or other instrument. But now, with harmony grown into a mighty science, one is naturally tempted to make use of it to adorn, and, as some think, to improve such melodies; but a true blend of the old and the new is only effected when the latent harmony of the melody is preserved, and merely intensified by modern means. Only in very few of the settings under notice does Herr Stockhausen seem to have had that aim in view. The skill and taste, however, which he has displayed in his accompaniments is great, and sometimes, even when the natural harmonies are ignored, he has produced some charming effects, as, for instance, in 'Thro' grief and thro' danger,' and in the lovely 'Ancient Lullaby.' In the text there are small misprints which might have been avoided. A German text by Claire von Glümer is added.

Mr. J. Williams has sent us: *Irish Songs*, lyrics by M. C. Gillington, with symphonies by Florian Pascal.—Our remarks above with regard to the Stockhausen accompaniments will also apply to those of the present publication. They are essentially modern, but from that standpoint are clever and attractive.

The Village Blacksmith, cantata. Words by Longfellow; music by Thomas Anderson.—The music of this cantata is fresh, clever, and gener-

ally attractive. It is somewhat popular in character, yet keeps well above the commonplace. There are several realistic touches in it—the swing of the heavy sledge, the sexton ringing the village bell, and others—but none of them is forced or unduly prolonged. The church stanza is not treated, as in the well-known song, in semi-melodramatic style, but in a sympathetic, quaint manner. The composer, however, must forgive us for saying that in the setting of the words "How in the grave she lies" we do not like the chord of the sixth with which the appropriate plagal cadence closes; anyhow, the bass note in the accompaniment ought not to have been doubled. Surely the plain common chord, with the bass descending to *c*, would have been more impressive. The vocal parts are carefully written, and the cantata is well suited to amateur and country choirs. There is a German translation of the poem by Willy Kastner.—*Svanhild*, a cantata for female voices and tenor solo. Written by Dr. Francis Hueffer; composed by Florian Pascal. This is an essentially pleasing work. It is music cleverly made rather than truly inspired, but the making is of the best and daintiest. The "female voices" of the title-page includes, besides the choruses of Swan-Maidens, solos for Svanhild, the principal *dramatis persona*, and smaller parts for the queen (contralto) and an attendant (mezzo-soprano). There are one or two passages in which, in the matter of accent, tone and word do not agree; as, for instance, in the "upon thy cheek," p. 19, and "And we plighted," p. 26.

Sonata in A minor for Pianoforte and Violin. Op. 8. By Ernest Walker.—The thematic material of the opening movement is interesting and well contrasted; also the development section shows careful workmanship. The *largo* is most pleasing, while the concluding *andantino* offers much that is good. This sonata promises well for the future, and the composer deserves praise for attempting so serious and severe a form of composition.

We have received from Messrs. Novello & Co.: *A Modern School for the Violin*, by August Wilhelmj and James Brown. The object of the present work is to provide in one systematic and comprehensive scheme "all that is essential to the acquirement of the art of modern violin playing." It is divided into two sections, each consisting of six books. The first section is devoted to technical studies, the second to a series of original and selected studies. Among the "daily technical practice" are to be found all scales and *arpeggi* needed by candidates entering for the Associated Board and other examinations. A. Wilhelmj, the head of this "school," bears a name which in itself is a great recommendation, and Mr. J. Brown enjoys a good reputation.—*Leaflets*, for violin and pianoforte, by Siegfried Jacoby. These are six easy pieces, all in the first position, written in a light, tasteful style. No. 3, by the way, is entitled 'Tarentelle,' but it has more of a saltarelle character.—*Panzeron's Fifty Vocalises for Two Voices*. Edited by Alberto Randegger. Parts I. and II. The value of these useful and attractive exercises was recognized by Cherubini. They were adopted at the Paris Conservatoire, and since then have been introduced into all the conservatoires of France and Belgium. It will, therefore, suffice to call attention to this new edition, carefully prepared by Signor Alberto Randegger.

PART VIII. of a reference catalogue of famous autographs which the Society of Archivists is producing is *Ludwig van Beethoven*, by J. S. Shedlock, with additional notes by N. P. Cummings. It contains two interesting facsimiles of the master's music-writing, and one of a letter to his friend Baron Gleichenstein.

Musical Gossip.

THE Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts have been attracting large audiences, and the band, under the direction of Mr. Henry J. Wood, has fully maintained its reputation. An interesting novelty was submitted last Saturday evening in Tchaikowsky's second orchestral suite, labelled 'Caractéristique.' This work, which was originally produced in 1883 at a concert given by the Moscow Musical Society, comprises five movements: "Jeu des Sons," "Valse," "Scherzo Burlesque," "Rêves d'Enfant," and "Danse Baroque." The music of the last but one yields pleasure owing to its impassioned and genuinely melodious character, while the *scherzo* reveals no little humour and fancy. The final dance is a strenuous, energetic, and forcible piece, that could have come from none but a Russian source. Although the members of the band only had the work placed before them on the previous Thursday, the various sections were interpreted with notable skill and decision. Another novelty, produced on Monday evening, was the 'Prelude and Cortège' from Saint-Saëns's incidental music to 'Déjanire.' M. Louis Gallet's drama-antique was twice presented in the arena at Béziers in August, 1898, the music being interpreted by a band of 250 and a choir of 200. Though the performances in the open air proved successful, 'Déjanire,' when transported to the stage at the Odéon Theatre, brought disappointment. Saint-Saëns employs the ancient Greek scales in the piece submitted at Queen's Hall, but the final section is in the modern major mode. Effective, animated, and interesting, the music, capably given by the band, met with appreciation, and so, perhaps, other of the fifteen numbers provided by Saint-Saëns may presently be taken in hand by our enterprising concert directors. English music was represented in the programme on Monday evening by Sir Arthur Sullivan's picturesque 'Macbeth' Overture—a much valued specimen of English art—and the somewhat dull and unconvincing fantasia, for trumpet, organ, and orchestra, by Mr. C. H. Couldery, produced at the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts last year. A successful first appearance in England has been made at Queen's Hall by Mlle. Carozzi, an Italian harpist, who in her performance of Godefrid's Fantasia on 'Der Freischütz' revealed a fine and certain command of her instrument. United to brilliant execution in this instance is the charm of style.

On Wednesday evening the first performance in England was given of 'Five Flemish Dances' by the Dutch composer Jan Blockx, whose opera 'Herberg-Princess' has proved successful. All of these are lively, tuneful, and cleverly scored pieces, and the third might well be taken for an old English dance signed by Mr. Cowen. The first, with its quaint drum-and-fife effects, and the last, a bold and spirited effort, are particularly taking. All were played with animation and vivacity by Mr. Wood's instrumentalists, whose firm and dignified performance of Tchaikowsky's 'Pathetic' Symphony stirred the audience to enthusiasm. Mlle. Tosta de Benici, a new pianist from Sweden, played solos by Sinding and Liszt with neatness and fluency, and Madame Luisa Sobrino sang Weber's 'Softly Sighs' with a full measure of expression and vocal ability.

A SEASON of promenade concerts was inaugurated at Covent Garden last Saturday evening, a syndicate, with Mr. Cecil Barth as manager, having taken the opera-house from Messrs. Rendle & Forsyth for a period of four weeks. The scenes depicting Khartoum, painted for the last series of fancy dress balls, again adorn the stage, and the orchestra has been brought well forward into the auditorium. The duties of conductor are shared by Mr. George Riseley and M. Georges Jacobi, the Bristol musician taking charge of

the first part of the entertainment, while the late musical director of the Alhambra is responsible for the remainder. Several well-known instrumentalists are included in the band, which at the first concert was supported by the band of the 2nd Life Guards. On the opening night performances were given of the overtures to 'Tannhäuser,' 'William Tell,' and 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' together with selections from 'Faust' and 'H.M.S. Pinafore,' the playing of the band being distinguished by spirit and vigour rather than by finish and precision. Mr. W. H. Cummings conducted his effective 'Festal March,' and Mr. Gerald Valenn, a rapidly improving violinist, played solos by Saint-Saëns and Hubay in good style. The vocalists were Madame Medora Henson and Madame Agnes Janson, whose artistic singing was greatly appreciated. In the second part of the programme a vocal waltz by Herr Roeder, entitled 'The Gleaners,' was sung by a choir of ladies in fancy costume. This genial piece pleased the audience and so served its purpose. On Monday evening several jubilant pieces were included in a programme designed to commemorate the fall of Khartoum and Lord Kitchener's victory.

THE autumn series of Saturday concerts at the Crystal Palace will commence on October 7th, under the direction of Mr. August Manns. This year only six concerts will be given before Christmas. Among the works announced that have not previously been performed at Sydenham are Dvorák's symphonic poem 'Heroic Song'; Godard's Violin Concerto in *c* minor, written for M. Johannes Wolf; Dr. Villiers Stanford's "Our enemies have fallen," for chorus and orchestra, the words from Tennyson's 'The Princess'; Mr. Edward Elgar's orchestral piece, of Spanish character, entitled 'Sevillana'; and a Fantasia for Flute by Mr. Thomas Dunhill, of the Royal College of Music. At the second concert Saint-Saëns's 'Samson and Delilah' will be performed, with Madame Marie Brema and Mr. Ben Davies as chief soloists. Among the artists who will appear during the season are Miss Fanny Davies, Madame Blanche Marchesi, and Messrs. Busoni, Dawson, Gerardy, Plunket Greene, Knowles, Edward Lloyd, Price, and Sarasate.

DR. RICHTER has, it is understood, concluded a fresh agreement with the authorities at the Imperial Opera, Vienna, covering the period to the end of 1904. He will conduct, as usual, his autumn and winter concerts in England, and, during a portion of next winter, the Halle concerts at Manchester.

MR. EUGENE D'ALBERT has finished his new concerto for violoncello and orchestra, which he has dedicated to Herr Hugo Becker. The work will be produced in Germany during the autumn.

LETTERS from Chopin to his intimate friend Jules Fontana are at present being published by the Warsaw paper *Biblioteka Warszawska*. A medal, too, in commemoration of the Polish composer has been struck at Warsaw, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his death. The profile of Chopin has been executed by the sculptor Sigismund Slupski. The reverse has a lyre surrounded by a laurel branch and the opening bars of one of the mazurkas. On the edges are the name and dates of birth and death of the composer.

FRAU COSIMA WAGNER, in thanking the artists for their services after the last successful performance of 'Parsifal' at Bayreuth, is said to have announced that the next Wagner *Festspiel* will take place in 1901.

GERMAN papers report the discovery of the original manuscript of a hitherto unpublished march by Schubert. The manuscript, which was sold with other papers at an auction in Ziegelhausen, near Heidelberg, contains, besides the composer's anagram, the date "Wien im Nov. 1825," and in a corner of the composition occurs the Austrian popular expression

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"Schwammerl," the nickname applied to Schubert by his friends.

CARL GOLDMARK'S 'Merlin' has been performed at the Vienna Hofopertheater about forty times. The composer has now revised his work, making important alterations, and in this its new form the opera will be produced at Vienna during the coming season.

THE Dutch opera company, under the direction of Herr Emil Fischer, was announced to commence a series of performances at Amsterdam, commencing on September 1st with Goldmark's 'Königin von Saba.' The scheme includes the following operas: 'Hans Heiling,' 'Werther,' 'Carmen,' 'Faust,' 'Barbier von Bagdad,' and the Wagner operas from 'Der Fliegende Holländer' to 'Lohengrin.'

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

HAYMARKET.—'The Degenerates,' a Play in Four Acts. By Sydney Grundy.
STRAND.—'The Last Chapter,' a Domestic Comedy in Four Acts. By George H. Broadhurst.

INVENTION is not Mr. Grundy's forte. His best plays have generally a backbone of foreign growth, or are, at least, like Eve, made out of an alien rib. 'The Degenerates,' which claims to be original, is not one of Mr. Grundy's best plays. Its originality we will not dispute. It bears, however, a certain resemblance to the plays which, following 'La Dame aux Camélias,' undertook, like that notorious piece, the rehabilitation or the redemption of the courtesan. The mention of redemption brings naturally to mind 'La Rédemption' of Octave Feuillet, next to 'The New Magdalen' of Wilkie Collins—the production of which in 1873 it anticipated by a dozen or more years—the most deplorably cynical of comedies. Not quite so atrocious as the teaching of either of those pieces is the moral suggested—we can scarcely say enforced—by Mr. Grundy; which, indeed, viewed in certain aspects, is defensible, and even worthy. On the other hand, while 'La Rédemption' stirs us a little, and 'The New Magdalen' a good deal, 'The Degenerates' stirs us not at all. In a sense Mr. Grundy's heroine is not a courtesan. She would not call herself such, and might even be angry with those who did. She is, however, a good deal "spotted," to use an expression that occurs in the play. She is, moreover, in the habit of making compromising assignments with married men, and is a woman whom wives generally regard with mistrust or aversion. Of this creature Mr. Grundy undertakes the regeneration. She does not, like Marguerite Gauthier, die of phthisis, nor does a fancy for a man less accessible and a little more scrupulous than her lovers generally prove her worth, as in 'La Rédemption,' by driving her to attempt suicide. Though somewhat startling in its arrival and erratic in its influence, the motive by which she is swayed is edifying and pure, being simply maternal affection. During the absence of her daughter at a convent school, Mrs. Trevelyan, a widow who has divorced her husband previous to his demise, has done pretty well what she liked. The approaching return of the girl has been regarded with apprehension as likely to prove a check upon her proceedings and an index to her age. Una, her daughter, arrives, unattended by the "milk-white

lamb" which was her emblem before vulgar taste transferred it to Mary. The innocent grace of the child, her affection, and her pride in her mother, with whose proceedings the newspapers have rendered her familiar, accomplish the heroine's conquest and cure. How amendment manifests itself needs not be told. Suffice it to say that the married man with whom she has an assignation beats vainly against her gate, while his wife, who in a fit of mad jealousy has thrown herself into the arms of a not very ardent lover, is sheltered, protected, and ultimately redeemed by the woman she had learnt to regard as her worst enemy. No fault is to be found with this story. The world by which its action is supported is, however, the most unlovely we can recall. Very closely allied are the functions of the writer of comedy and the satirist. There may be a world of degenerates such as Mr. Grundy paints. We know it not, and we find its members wholly unconvincing. Rumour and the evidence of the police courts combined to show that a titled young ruffian who might have sat for Mr. Grundy's Viscount Stornoway once existed. There was, however, no society, except that of jockeys and prizefighters, in which he was tolerated. His representative, meantime, who called his wife his "donah" and sat wearing his hat in the presence of ladies, associated familiarly with dukes and people of fashion. "An ounce of civet, Master Apothecary," is indispensable to sweeten the imagination. For stage purposes people such as are exhibited are unsuited, and Mr. Grundy may well learn the lesson that they are so. Mrs. Langtry played the heroine with more ease and less self-consciousness than usual; Mr. Charles Hawtrey had very little to do, and did it well; Miss Lily Hanbury showed much intensity as a jealous wife; and Miss Lily Grundy made a pleasing *début* as Una Trevelyan. The piece was generally well played, one of the best bits of acting being that of Mr. Harcourt Beatty as a South African millionaire.

The domestic comedy with which the Strand has reopened is primitive and sympathetic, but scarcely strong. Its scene is laid in California, and the action is such as could easily take place nowhere except in a mining district. What has to be done is only to bring together two young lovers who seem disposed to play ducks and drakes with their amorous capital. This is ultimately accomplished, after some moderately dramatic scenes have been reached. The acting generally is good, one character, Timothy Salter, of a distinctly Western type, being admirably played by Mr. Thomas A. Wise, an actor with much ripe humour. Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. John Beauchamp, Mr. P. Cuningham, Miss May Whitty, Miss Jessie Ferrar, and other artists gave the whole a commendable interpretation and secured for it a success.

FRENCH DRAMATIC CRITICISM.

Nouvelles Études d'Histoire et de Critique Dramatique. Par Gustave Larroumet. (Hachette & Co.)—Sufficiently miscellaneous are the contents of this second series of dramatic studies of M. Larroumet, the perpetual secretary of the Académie des Beaux-Arts. They are, indeed, chips from a workshop, and consist of conferences on various dramatic topics, essays on

the direction of the Conservatoire, the Odéon, and the Opéra Comique, reviews of books, and appreciations of artists and writers: Eleonora Duse, Ermete Novelli, Maria Guerrero, M. Hervieu, M. Donnay, and M. Richepin. The essay of most importance and interest is on 'Le Don Juan Espagnol,' a theme which M. Larroumet treats again in 'Maria Guerrero et le Théâtre Espagnol.' M. Larroumet has a good knowledge of the Greek and Latin stages, and what he says is worth attention. In regard to the English and German stage he is less well informed; indeed, it may be held, not informed at all. We find him even talking of Irving at the "Lyceum de Londres, avec une troupe et un théâtre organisés pour 'Le grand Will.'" M. Larroumet, to whom is owing an excellent book on Mari-vaux, which was *couronné* by the Académie Française, has given us at the close of his volume 'La Femme Fidèle,' a one-act prose comedy of that author first seen on the 24th and 25th of August, 1755, at the Château de Berny of the Count de Clermont, and first publicly acted, under the title of 'Les Revenants,' at the Odéon on the 8th of March, 1894. It is a pleasant piece of *marivaudage*, showing the return of a marquis and his servant Frontin, who, during a captivity in Algeria, have been reported dead, and reappear to find their wives on the point of contracting fresh nuptials.

Les Femmes dans la Comédie Française et Italienne au XVIII. Siècle. Par Charles Dejob. (Paris, Fontemoing.)—It is a curious fact, on which M. Dejob does not fail to insist, that the theatre in France, from the appearance of Molière until well into the present century, is far cleaner in language and more edifying than that of England in corresponding epochs. Nothing in the French drama approaches in coarseness and indecency the comedies of the Restoration dramatists, who, while taking to a great extent their plots from Molière, degraded his characters, and defiled his text. In the eighteenth century the processes of deterioration, according to M. Dejob, continue, and the stage of Steele, Colley Cibber, Sheridan, Goldsmith, Mrs. Cowley, Cumberland, and Burgoyne is inferior to that of Voltaire, Diderot, Marivaux, Sedaine, Collé, Beaumarchais, and Carmontel in decency, as it is in other respects. With England, M. Dejob associates in condemnation Germany, and with France in praise Italy. In one (and that the most important) respect this is gain to England. If with our dramatists we may associate Goethe, Schiller, and Lessing, the alliance may fortify us against the appearance in the opposite camp of Alfieri, Goldoni, Metastasio, and Notti, though the last named can scarcely be said to belong to the eighteenth century. By the introduction of Italian comedy M. Dejob adds little to the value of his argument, and detracts seriously from the vivacity of his book. Its presence serves, moreover, to give the whole a polemical character, regrettable in the case of a work the aim of which is scholarly, and sufficiently indicated by the following passage at the close of the section dealing with English comedy: "Ces chroniques ne compromettaient pas la nation, parce que l'on n'observait pas l'Angleterre avec la curiosité haineuse avec laquelle on surveille aujourd'hui la France," words which show how lamentably ignorant is the author with regard to the true state of feeling in this country. In his main contention M. Dejob is right. Quite useless is it to point to the fact that, as a whole, English literature is cleaner than that of France during the eighteenth century, and that, though Sterne may perhaps be pitted against Crebillon *fils*, so far as avowed productions are concerned, we have next to nothing corresponding to the 'Pucelle d'Orléans' of Voltaire or the productions of Desforges, Rétif, and Choderlos de Laclos, without digging deeper in unsavoury deposit. Still, the truth to which we have shut our eyes in England has been realized in France,

that closer repression is necessary in the case of the drama than in that of other forms of literature or art. With a humble *peccavimus* we own that comedy in France—keeping out of sight, as is but right, productions written for the delectation of a corrupt court, and never reaching the general world—is purer and worthier than in England, and fulfils better its mission. Italy too, where, as well as in France, licence prevailed in poem and prose fiction, may share with France the triumph. As regards Germany we will undertake no defence, seeking no associate in bearing our burden. It is difficult always in M. Dejob's book to recognize English plays under new titles. Steele's 'Conscious Lovers' becomes 'Les Amants Généreux'; 'Le Mari poussé à Bout' scarcely suggests at first 'The Provoked Husband'; and 'La Belle Artificieuse' seems far away from 'The Belle's Stratagem.' Englishmen know little concerning the minor French dramatists of the last century. M. Dejob's work may lead some of them to escape or renew acquaintance with Baron, Destouches, Collin d'Harleville, Dancourt, Fabre d'Eglantine, Mercier, and many others, knowledge of whose work is useful, if not indispensable, to the close student of the drama.

La Comédie en France au XIX. Siècle. Par Ch. Lenient. Tome Second. (Paris, Hachette.)—The second volume of M. Lenient's history of French comedy in the nineteenth century carries the work to the middle of the century; finishes with the work of Scribe, with a part of which the earlier volume is concerned; deals with that of Casimir Delavigne, Bayard, Dumas père, Balzac, Sand, Jules Sandeau, and Musset; and prepares the way for the advent of Augier, Labiche, Dumas fils, Feuillet, and Augier, and probably (if the work reaches to a fourth volume) that of MM. Pailleron, Becque, Lemaitre, Lavedan, Donnay, Richepin, and Rostand. With the addition of the two previous volumes concerning the comedy of the eighteenth century, the reader will have a synopsis of French comedy from the period of Dancourt, Regnard, Lesage, Brueys and Palaprat, La Grange-Chancel and Destouches, to that of to-day, linking 'Le Joueur' and 'Le Légataire Universel' with 'Le Chemineau' and 'Cyrano de Bergerac.' Convenient in some respects as it is, the method employed by Prof. Lenient involves some appearance of repetition. Comedy in the nineteenth century is dealt with under periods—the Empire, the Restoration, the Monarchy of July—to be followed, doubtless, by the Second Empire and the Republic of 1870. One result of this process is to make the work, to some extent, a supplement to the 'Histoire par le Théâtre' of Muret, which ends with the second and short-lived Republic; another, that the work of some writers, notably Scribe, is classed under different epochs, the 'Théâtre de Madame' and the early productions occupying chaps. xv. to xix. in the first volume, and what may perhaps—though the description is scarcely confined to them—be called the political and satirical comedies, from 'Bertrand et Raton' to 'Le Puff,' chaps. xxiv. and xxv. in the second. It is inherent in the scheme of the work, which deals with comedy, not drama, that a sense of disproportion is experienced by the reader, who finds less than four pages assigned to Sandeau and twenty-five to Balzac, against over one hundred and thirty to Scribe. This, however, is inevitable. While Balzac wrote but one comedy, properly so called, for the theatre, Dumas père half a dozen of first-rate importance, and Hugo none, Scribe's comedies are collected in something over a hundred volumes; and, much as it is now the fashion to depreciate him, he is with his collaborators, including his nephew and friend Bayard, responsible for scores of comedies and vaudevilles, the influence of which is traceable up to the present day. The most interesting chapters in the present volume are those on George Sand

and Alfred de Musset. In the case of the latter it is doubtful whether all the works dealt with can be regarded as comedies. The termination of 'On ne badine pas avec l'Amour' seems to put it out of the category. It is necessary to wait for the conclusion of the work to speak definitely of its utility as a record. The ground M. Lenient now covers is frequently occupied by modern writers, and he has almost, if not quite, reached the point at which existing records supply a continuous chronicle. In the case of comic authors of the second order something is added to our knowledge. In that of men such as Scribe, Dumas, Balzac, and Musset, if the last word has not been said, words in abundance have been spoken.

Dramatic Gossip.

MR. WILSON BARRETT reopened the Lyceum on Saturday last with 'The Silver King,' in which he reappeared as Wilfred Denver, the best part in his repertory. He was received with much favour, and played the character in his best style. No other member of the original cast remains, though the imitation of previous exponents was so successful that change was not in every case recognizable. Miss Maud Jeffries looked well as the heroine, but has scarcely the requisite strength; Mr. T. W. Percyval was Capt. Skinner; Mr. Horace Hodges, Jaikes; and Mr. Ambrose Manning, Coombe.

ON Saturday also the Duke of York's reopened with 'An American Citizen,' the run of which was interrupted by August heats. Mr. N. C. Goodwin, Miss Maxine Elliott, and Miss Gertrude Elliott took their original parts, and the cast, except in one character of secondary importance, was the same with which the piece was originally given.

'HEARTS ARE TRUMPS,' a title not wholly new to the stage, is the name now bestowed upon the new drama of Mr. Cecil Raleigh, the production of which may soon be anticipated. Among its effects is an Alpine calamity, to which recent events give a melancholy interest. Such coincidences are, however, to be expected in an autumn piece.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Era* has had an interview with Miss Rose Norreys in Bethlehem Hospital, and holds out no prospect of her ultimate recovery or return to the stage.

'A TRIP TO MIDGETOWN,' with which the Olympic has reopened, proves to be what is called a "variety" entertainment. Some ability is shown by one or two of the dwarf actors, but the entertainment, though received with favour, is not of a high order.

A SHORT season at the Avenue, under the management of Miss Granville, will preface Mr. Hawtrey's return, and will witness the production of 'An Interrupted Honeymoon,' by Mr. Kinsey Peile.

UNDER the title of 'Die Genossin,' a rendering of Mr. Pinero's 'The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith' has been produced at the Lessing Theatre, Berlin. Fräulein Elise Sauer played the eponymous heroine and Herr Adolf Klein the Duke.

THE performance at the Comedy by Mr. Kyrle Bellew and Mrs. Brown Potter of 'The Ghetto' has been postponed from Thursday, for which night it was announced, until this evening.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A. M.—G. H. K.—G. C. W.—E. A.—K. M. D.—received.
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